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today

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NINJA!



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ISSUE 120 (2015)

STYLISH MAKES: Crystal necklace ■ Stripy hat ■ Party decorations ■ Easy lace scarf



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*today*

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Winter's long evenings are the perfect excuse to curl up on the sofa and cast on. But despite all those extra hours there never seems to be enough time to knit everything you want. We've packed this issue with speedy projects so now there's no need to choose – make them all! If you prefer a slow-burn knit Lisa Richardson's gorgeous cowl-neck

jumper (p16) is a great use of your time – it's a classic you'll wear for years to come. Choosing yarn can be tricky if you're new to knitting. And even if you're an old hand it can be hard to know what to do with odd balls of beautiful yarn bought on impulse. Our yarn guide (p68) makes sense of it all and includes ideas for one-ball projects. Why not make Angela Turner's ninja with your leftovers? Use him to guard your yarn stash and tag your makes #knittodaymag.

*Rosee*

Rosee Woodland  
Editor

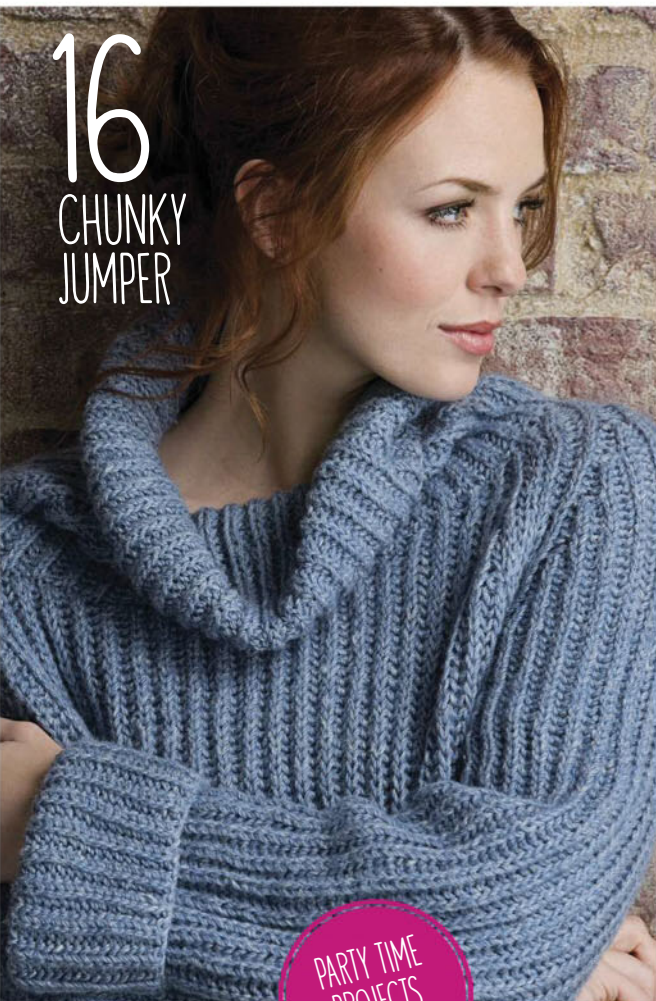






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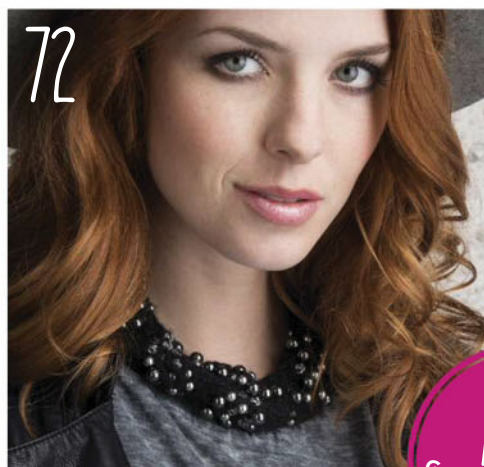
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**WANT TO  
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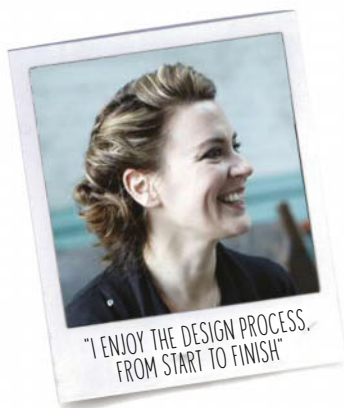
See page 34  
for more information

HOW TO  
VIDEOS  
Go to [knit-today.com](http://knit-today.com)  
for handy  
step-by-steps



# CONTRIBUTORS

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE THIS ISSUE...



**LISA RICHARDSON**

Inspired by shape and texture, Lisa's designs for Rowan showcase fascinating stitch details, unique garment structure and stylish techniques, all demonstrated with her beautiful cowl neck ribbed jumper featured on page 16.



**JESS BISCOE**

If you've been ignoring the jingle of Christmas bells and are worried you're leaving present making too late, Jess has some handy tips on page 32 to make sure you have a very woolly Christmas and a happy yarn year!



**ANGELA TURNER**

From baby dinosaurs to wide-eyed deer you can always rely on Angela's cute designs to up the 'aaaah' factor! This time it's her soft knitted ninja page 36 that'll be stealing your hearts.



**DEBBIE BLISS**

Debbie can count Elton John, Uma Thurman and Iman (aka Mrs David Bowie) among her fans. And after seeing her infinity scarf pattern on page 80, she'll no doubt gain a few more!

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# NOTEBOOK

IDEAS ♥ INSPIRATION ♥ ACCESSORIES ♥ WEBSITES ♥ EVENTS ♥ STUFF

FAB  
READER  
GIVEAWAY

Competition terms and conditions on page 6.

## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

Whether you're a new knitter or full of expertise, this book is for you. Well-known knit designer, Debbie Bliss, has packed years of knitting know-how into one beautifully illustrated book for you to enjoy over and over again. *The Knitter's Knowledge* (£25) includes basic skills, time-saving techniques and ways to safeguard projects against tantrums! We have five copies of *The Knitter's Knowledge* to giveaway to lucky readers. Visit [knit-today.com](http://knit-today.com) for your chance to win.





## L'I'L YARN BUDDY!

■ Are you forever getting in a knotty pickle? Then we have the answer! Wildandwoolly shop.com's Yarn Buddy (£20) keeps those little fluffy balls out of trouble, supplying you with a constant stream of tangle-free yarn as you knit your woolly masterpiece – bliss!



## TOTALLY HOOKED!

Eco warriors will love the new colours in the Hooooked Ribbon XL yarn range (£6.21) as it's made from 80% recycled cotton! Not only are you saving the planet, these yarns are machine washable and suitable for everyday wear too. Each ball is a whopping 250g (120m/131yds) and worked on 8-12mm needles. Visit [hooooked.co.uk](http://hooooked.co.uk) for some great free pattern ideas, from bags to table lamp decorations to cushions.



## CUSHY NUMBER

**B**righten up that tired, lumpy sofa with the Masley Cushion Cover Knitting Kit from the Stitch & Story gang (£39). Aimed squarely at beginners, it's knitted in Stitch & Story's 100% Chunky Wool yarn which is super snuggly and soft, and knits up so fast it'll have you casting off and plumping up in no time. Not the right colour for your decor? No problem. This kit also comes in stormy grey and yellow, teal and ivory, and orange and white. Discover more about their homewares at [stitchandstory.com](http://stitchandstory.com).

## WARM UP WILD STYLE

There's nothing quite like neckwear with personality! We love the sweet Cat Scarf from Miss Snowberry (£47), the exotic-looking Cockatoo scarf (£66) from knit genius Nina Führer, and the perfectly pink Lobster Scarf by Telfer Designs (all three on Etsy). Then there's the structural wonder that is Louise Walker's Wolf Headress scarf – the pattern is in her book, *Faux Taxidermy Knits* (£11.99) on [Amazon.co.uk](http://Amazon.co.uk). Each one is a fab knit conversation.







## TOTALLY RAD DUDES

Wool & The Gang's new kids knit range is one of the funkiest we've seen for a long time. With chunky jumpers, colourful tartan cowls and mega beanies, you'll have a mini fashionista on your hands in no time. With some patterns starting from just £5 why stop at one? Check out the full range at [woolandthegang.com](http://woolandthegang.com).



## TICKET GIVEAWAY

### Fancy a free ticket to a fabulous knitting show?

Indulge your knitting addiction at Knit & Stitch It 2016, this Feb 26th and 27th at Five, Farnborough. Choose from thousands of crafts suppliers and experience gifts galore! Enter our giveaway at [knit-today.com](http://knit-today.com) for a chance to win one of ten ticket pairs and find out more about the event at [knitandstitch-it.org.uk](http://knitandstitch-it.org.uk).

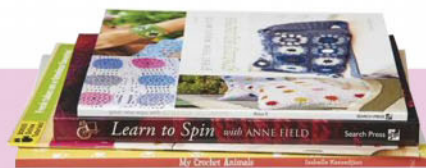


Competition terms and conditions on page 6.



## GENTLE TARTAN

When winter knits are as gorgeous as this one, they're hugely difficult to resist! Sarah Hazel's Plaid Weave Scarf is knitted in Rowan Fazed Tweed and available as an individual pattern download from [knitrowan.com](http://knitrowan.com) for just £4, or as part of their larger Christmas Collection for £12.



## NEW KNOT READS

### COOPKNITS TOASTY VOLUME 2

Rachel Coopey

(£12, Coop Knits)

Discover knitted colour work that will make your soul sing with Rachel Coopey's latest volume of toasty knits. Beautifully worked, choose from hats and cowls and gloves galore.



### MINI KNITTED TOYS

Sachiyo Ishii

(£9.99, Search Press)

This is the latest title from innovative knitter, Sachiyo Ishii. It's filled with a bounty of knitted playthings, from cars and aliens, to fairies and cupcakes.



### PATCH'S GRAND DOG SHOW

Sally Muir & Joanna Osbourne

(£11.99, Pavilion Books)

Enjoy the 'tail' of Patch the dog in this great knitted children's story book filled with lovely knitted pets! Plus your very own Patch pattern too.



### GOOD MEASURE

Deborah Newton

(£20, Sixth & Spring)

Deborah Newton has been a knitwear designer for more than 25 years. The great knowledge in this book will help hugely if you're aiming to be a knit designer.

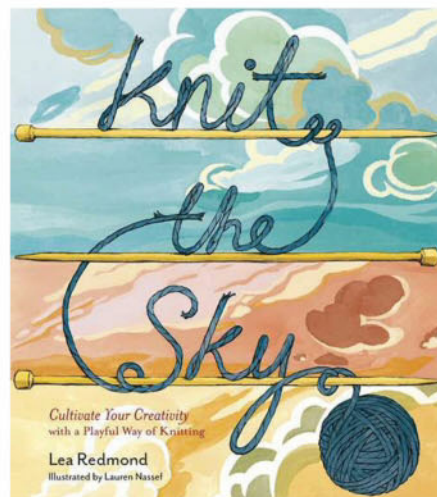






## WARM AS TOAST

■ Don't let winter pass you by without casting on a pair of handwarmers! We've fallen in love with the simplicity of [charlieandhannah.com](http://charlieandhannah.com)'s chunky versions (£25 per kit). You can make them in Hopsack Gold, Hawthorn Red, Hibiscus Pink or Poole Blue.



## KNIT WITH LOOP

We all fancy a good old knit along and to celebrate 10 years, Loop yarn shop are having their own. Simply choose a pattern from their anniversary book, *Loop's 10*, and start knitting! Update your progress on the *Loop's 10 KAL* group discussion board at [Ravelry.com](http://Ravelry.com). Buy the book at [loopknittingshop.com](http://loopknittingshop.com). Visit [loopknitlounge.com](http://loopknitlounge.com) and look for the *Loop's 10 Kal* post for details.



## KNITTING THE SKY

Discover a knitting book like no other, where your everyday life is recorded through your knitting needles. *Knit The Sky* (£14.99 from [Amazon.co.uk](http://Amazon.co.uk)) by Lea Redmond contains 32 wildy creative knitting projects, each one designed to be deeply personal to you, recording the beauty of life, its emotions, meaning and memories. Start a truly beautiful knit adventure you'll never forget.

## GENTLE GIANTS

This generous, dreamy and luxurious new yarn from the creatives at Purl Soho is a knitter's dream. Gentle Giant (\$22, approx £14.55 per 125g) is a loosely spun, single ply of pure merino which knits up to a massive 4cm (1½in) per stitch! Available in a dozen muted colours, the range is drawn from nature's palette and includes shades with names like Winter Bark, Weathered Blue and Pink Sky. For more details visit [purlsoho.com](http://purlsoho.com).







## × NOTEBOOK ×



## 5 MINUTES WITH...



### ALANA DAKOS

**Hello Alana!  
When did you  
start knitting?**

I learned to knit 13 years ago using a hideous learn-to-

knit book featuring baggy drop-shoulder sweaters from the 90s!

### And how about the designing?

I started writing patterns in 2009 when I found myself searching for a career change. That decision led to my publishing four knitting books, starting up a publishing and distribution company for knitting books and patterns (NNK Press) and opening my own yarn shop (Never Not Knitting in Atascadero, California).

### Do you still enjoy knitting for others?

I do! There is nothing compared to a handmade gift. I love that we as knitters have the ability to create something for someone that we care about with our own

hands, with love in every stitch. It's such a meaningful way to give.

### Tell us about your book, *Annie and the Swiss Cheese Scarf*...

I self published it in collaboration with illustrator, Neesha Hudson and my then six-year-old daughter. My daughter was learning to knit and I wanted to address the common problem I have seen with children learning something new... patience! It's about children overcoming hurdles to learn something new, even when it's challenging.

See more of Alana's knitting life at [nevernotknitting.blogspot.co.uk](http://nevernotknitting.blogspot.co.uk).



## MUST BOOKMARK!

[greatbritishyarns.co.uk](http://greatbritishyarns.co.uk)

If you're looking for some of the best, most exciting British yarns around then look no further than this inviting website. From 4ply to super chunky and so much more it's a smorgasboard of British yarn creatives.



## 5 FAB FINDS

For tea addicts  
Kick back, pop on the  
kettle and brew up in style!



### POTTY PUNK

Make bonkers-but-brill Potty Punk tea cosy with a pattern download (£3.74) from Queen Of The Tea Cosies on Etsy.



### KNITTY KITTY

Tea and cats are a match made in heaven. Find this perfect Black Cat Tea Cosy (£32) at [notonthehighstreet.com](http://notonthehighstreet.com).

### CAKE-TASTIC!

Try sipping tea and *not* thinking about cake with this [laughinghens.com](http://laughinghens.com) Cup Cake Tea Cosy pattern (£2).



### SHEEP ON A HILL

For those of you who love to bring in the outdoors try My-Baboo.co.uk Little Baa On A Hill Tea Cosy (£30).

### MODERN COOL

Feeling patriotic? Hunt out Ruth Maddock's red, white and blue Union Jack Cosy pattern (£3.60) on [Ravelry.com](http://Ravelry.com).









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## COWL-NECK JUMPER



SUPER-COSY  
CHUNKINESS!

## IN THE GROOVE

Make super-slouching your thing with a cool cowl-neck from **Lisa Richardson**



# COWL-NECK JUMPER



## MATERIALS

- Yarn  
15 (17:18:19:22) x 50g balls of Rowan Hemp Tweed in Misty (shade 137)
- Needles  
4mm (UK 8, US 6) and 4.5mm (UK 7, US 7) knitting needles

## YARN DETAIL

- Rowan Hemp Tweed  
knitrowan.com  
01484 681881
- DK weight
- 75% wool, 25% hemp
- 50g/95m (103yds)
- Handwash
- £4.50

## TENSION

17 sts and 39 rows over pattern using 4.5mm needles to make a 10cm or 4in square

## SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

**k1 below** knit into next stitch one row below and at the same time slipping off stitch above

- Turn to page 96 for full list of abbreviations

There's nothing more comforting than throwing on a slouchy jumper that requires no styling and always looks fabulous! This gorgeous Lisa Richardson jumper is worked in a straightforward rib pattern which creates a structural, chunky finish that holds its shape well. Work it in Misty or one of the other nine dreamy colours.

## BACK

Using 4mm (UK 8, US 6) needles cast on 79 (91:101:109:123) sts.

**\*\*Row 1 (WS):** Knit.

Now work in patt as folls:

**Row 1 (RS):** Sl1, \*k1 below, p1, rep from \* to last 2 sts, k1 below, k1.

**Row 2 (WS):** Sl1, \*p1, k1 below, rep from \* to last 2 sts, p1, k1.

These 2 rows form patt.

Cont in patt for a further 8 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

**Change to 4.5mm needles.\*\***

Cont in patt until back meas 42 (43:44:45:46) cm, 16½ (17:17½:17¾:18) in ending with RS facing for next row.

## Shape raglan armholes

Cast off 4 sts at beg of next 2 rows.

71 (83:93:101:115) sts

Work 2 rows.

**Next row (RS):** Patt 4 sts, p3tog, patt to last 7 sts, p3tog tbl, patt 4 sts.

67 (79:89:97:111) sts

Working all raglan armhole decreases as set by last row, dec 2 sts at each end of 10th (8th:8th:6th:6th) and 4 (7:3:15:12) foll 10th (8th:8th:6th:6th) rows, then on 4 (4:10:-:6) foll 8th (6th:6th:-:4th) rows.

31 (31:33:33:35) sts

Work 7 (5:5:5:3) rows, ending with RS facing

for the next row.

Break yarn and leave sts on a holder.

## FRONT

Work as for back until 43 (47:49:49:63) sts rem in raglan armhole shaping.

Work 7 (5:1:1:1) rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

## Shape front neck

**Next row (RS):** (Patt 4 sts, p3tog) 1 (1:0:0:0) times, patt 8 (10:18:18:23) sts and turn,

leaving rem sts on a holder.

13 (15:18:18:23) sts

Work each side of neck separately.

Keeping patt and raglan armhole decreases correct, dec 1 st at neck edge of next 7 (8:8:8:8) rows, then on foll 0 (1:0:0:1) alt row, then on 0 (0:0:0:2) foll 4th rows and at same time dec 2 sts at raglan armhole edge of - (6th:4th:4th:4th) row and - (0:0:0:3) foll 4th rows. 6 (4:8:8:4) sts

Work 0 (1:1:1:1) row, ending with RS facing for next row.

## Size S only

**Next row (RS):** Patt 2 sts, p4tog. 3 sts

Work 5 rows, dec 1 st at neck edge of 2nd of these rows. 2 sts

## Sizes L and XL only

**Next row (RS):** Patt 4 sts, p4tog. 5 sts

Work 5 rows, dec 1 st at neck edge of 4th of these rows. 4 sts

## Sizes M, L, XL and XXL only

**Next row (RS):** Patt 1 st, sl 1, k2tog, psso. 2 sts

Work 1 row.



## MEASUREMENTS COWL-NECK JUMPER

TO FIT SIZE		S	M	L	XL	XXL
TO FIT BUST	cm	81-86	91-97	102-107	112-117	122-127
	in	32-34	36-38	40-42	44-46	48-50
ACTUAL BUST	cm	93	107	119	128	145
	in	37	42	47	50	57
LENGTH	cm	68	70	72	74	76
	in	27	27½	28½	29	30
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	46	47	48	48	48
	in	18	18½	19	19	19



# COWL-NECK JUMPER

## All sizes

**Next row (RS):** K2tog and fasten off.  
With RS facing, slip centre 13 (13:13:13:17) sts onto a holder, rejoin yarn and patt to last 7 (7:0:0:0) sts, (p3tog tbl, patt 4 sts) 1 (1:0:0:0) times. 13 (15:18:18:23) sts

Complete to match first side, reversing the shapings.

## SLEEVES

Using 4mm needles cast on 41 (45:45:45:49) sts.  
Work as given for back from \*\* to \*\*. Cont in patt, shaping sides by inc 1 st at each end of 11th (11th:11th:7th:7th) and every foll 20th (20th:20th:16th:16th) row to 57 (57:53:57:61) sts, then on every foll – (22nd:22nd:18th:18th) row until there are – (61:61:65:69) sts, taking inc sts into patt. Cont straight until sleeve meas 46 (47:48:48:48) cm, 18 (18½:19:19:19) in ending with RS facing for next row.

## Shape raglan

Cast off 4 sts at beg of next 2 rows. 49 (53:53:57:61) sts  
Work 2 rows.  
Working all raglan decreases in same way as raglan armhole decreases, dec 2 sts at each end of next and 5 (3:5:3:1) foll 10th rows, then on 3 (6:4:7:10) foll 8th rows. 13 sts. Work 5 rows, ending with RS facing for next row. Keeping all raglan decreases correct as set, cont as folls:

## Left sleeve only

Place a marker at the beg of last row – this marker matches up with the front neck fasten-off point.

## Right sleeve only

Place marker at end of last row – this marker matches to front neck fasten-off point.

## Both sleeves

Dec 1 st at marked front neck edge of next 9 rows and at same time dec 2 sts at back raglan edge of 3rd row. 2 sts  
Work 1 row, ending with RS facing for next row.

**Next row (RS):** K2tog and fasten off.

## Prepare for knitting the collar


Press the pieces as described on the ball band. Then join both front and right back raglan seams using back stitch, or mattress stitch if preferred.

## COLLAR

With RS facing and using 4.5mm needles, pick up and knit 10 sts from top of left sleeve, 12 (12:14:14:16) sts down left side of front neck, knit across 13 (13:13:13:17) sts on front holder, pick up and knit 12 (12:14:14:16) sts up right side of front neck, and 9 sts from top of right sleeve, then knit across 31 (31:33:33:35) sts on back holder. 87 (87:93:93:103) sts

**Row 1 (RS of collar, WS of body):** Sl1, \*k1, p1, rep from \* to last 2 sts, k2. Beg with row 2, work in patt as given for back until collar meas 27cm (10½in), ending with RS of collar (WS of body) facing for next row. Cast off in patt.

## MAKING UP

Sew the remaining seams making sure you reverse collar seam for last 16cm (6½in) to allow for the turn-back. Block out the piece of knitting following the instructions on the ball band. Darn in all ends neatly. 



This gorgeous cowl-neck jumper is from the book *Hemp Tweed* by Lisa Richardson, published by Rowan (RRP £9.50). Visit their website at [knitrowan.com](http://knitrowan.com)




Lisa's cowl-neck jumper is designed to look casual and we loved it with rolled up sleeves!

## LISA RICHARDSON

Lisa Richardson is a popular Rowan knit wear designer whose big love is to teach others to create!



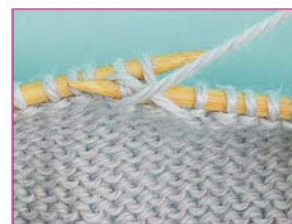
 [ravelry.com/designers/lisa-richardson](https://www.ravelry.com/designers/lisa-richardson)  
 [facebook.com/LisaRichardsonRowanDesigner](https://www.facebook.com/LisaRichardsonRowanDesigner)

## SIMPLE STEPS P2TOG

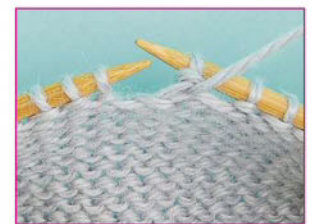
The purl two together stitch (p2tog) is used to combine two stitches on a purl row, decreasing one stitch each time you use it. From the purl side of the work it leans left, so when viewed from the right (knit) side in stocking stitch it will lean to the right, and look like you've made a k2tog stitch on the knit side of the work.



**1** With your yarn held at the front of the work, insert the right hand needle into the next two stitches purlwise, from right to left.



**2** Wrap the yarn around the needle in front of both stitches anti-clockwise and purl the stitches together, taking your time.



**3** Complete the p2tog by dropping the two stitches off the left hand needle leaving you with a single stitch on your right hand needle.



# BRIGHT SPARKS

These glow-in-the-dark hats from **Rico** are perfect for keeping your little fireflies safe at night



TRY A COOL  
NEW STITCH



# KID'S WINTER SET



## MATERIALS

- Yarn  
Rico Creative Glühwürmchen  
1 (1:1) x 100g ball in Orange  
(shade 009)  
1 (1:1) x 100g ball in  
Turquoise (shade 013)
- Needles  
6mm (UK 4, US 10)
- Accessories  
Rico Fake Fur Pompom,  
10cm (4in) diameter in either  
Petrol or Orange

## YARN DETAIL

- Rico Creative Glühwürmchen  
rico-design.de
- Chunky weight
- 54% acrylic, 30% wool, 16%  
synthetic
- 100g/110m (120yds)
- Machine wash 30C
- £7.99

## TENSION

10 sts and 24 rows over brioche  
stitch using 6mm needles to  
make a 10cm or 4in square

## FINISHED SIZE

48 (50:52) cm, 19 (19¼:20½) in  
circumference

## SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

- sl1k** slip one stitch knitwise  
(insert right needle into  
stitch as if to knit, place  
it on right needle  
without working it)
- sl1p** slip 1 stitch purlwise  
(insert right needle into  
stitch as if to purl, place  
it on right needle  
without working it)

- Turn to page 96 for a full  
list of abbreviations

**T**hese pom-pom hats from Rico  
have a secret, but you'll have to  
wait until nightfall to find out what  
it is! Thanks to a strand of fine fibreglass  
thread that you'd hardly notice in  
daylight, creative Glühwürmchen from  
Rico reflects when a light is shone on it,  
making whatever you knit from it  
glimmer and shine. This great hat design  
also incorporates one the stitches of the  
year – brioche stitch. It's fantastically  
satisfying to work and once you have the  
hang of it, can create some tremendous  
colour effects. Whatever yarn you  
choose, have fun mixing and matching  
the yarns with contrasting pom-poms,  
and watch as your little ones light up the  
night in this cool hat pattern!

## HAT

When counting stitches yos are not  
included.

Using 6mm needles and thumb method  
cast on 36 (38:40) sts.

**Row 1 (RS):** K1, sl1p, \*sl1p wyif, yo, k1, rep  
from \* to last 2 sts, p1, k1.

**Row 2 (WS):** K1, sl1p, \*sl1p wyif, yo, k2tog  
(yo and 1 st), rep from \* to last 2 sts, p1, k1.

Row 2 forms brioche patt.

Working in brioche patt (throughout) cont  
until work measures approx 15 (16:17)cm,  
6 (6¼:6¾) in.

## Shape crown

**Row 1 (RS):** K1, \*k3tog (not counting yo as  
sts), sl1p wyif, yo, rep from \* to last 3 (1:4)  
sts, and work the last two sts as follows:

**First size:** K2tog [yo and 1 st], p1, k1.

**Second size:** K1.

**Third size:** Sl1p wyif, yo, k2tog [yo and 1  
st], p1, k1. 20 (20:22) sts

Work 3 rows without dec.

**Row 5:** K1, \*k3tog (not counting yo as sts),  
sl1p wyif, yo, rep from \* to last 3 (3:1) sts  
and work the last sts as follows:

**First and second size:** K2tog [yo and 1 st],  
p1, k1.

**Third size:** K1. 12 sts

Work 1 row without dec.

Fasten off with a long tail and pull tail  
through remaining sts to inside.

## MAKING UP

Join back seam. Cover with a clean, damp  
tea towel, pull into shape and leave until  
dry. Attach pom-pom to top of hat. See  
ball band for further care instructions.

Add a pre-made fluffy  
pom-pom to your hat  
for a luxurious finish





## DRESS THE TABLE

Make your guests feel special by upping the décor touches with original and eye-catching cake flags using embroidered cocktail stick flags. Then scatter a few stars on the table.

## GORGEOUS GARLAND

Drape soft bunting wherever takes your fancy for an instant party-feel. Coordinate with your cake flags for a pulled-together, polished look.





HAPPY NEW YEAR



# PARTY PRETTIES

Make it a happy new yarn and celebrate in style by creating these knitted lovelies for your festive bash.

By **Emma Wright**



# HAPPY NEW YEAR



## LET THERE BE LIGHT

Add a warming touch to the proceedings with these cheery and charming tea light cosies. They are embroidered with gold twine to give a subtle glint and a touch of sparkle to the flickering flame. Whip them up at the speed of light, making them your greatest party trick.

## DIAMOND STARS

Diamond hangings make an ambient and dazzling alternative to paper chains. Their wire frames means they can be gently molded to hold sprigs of mistletoe and hung from the ceiling in prime kissing positions!











# HAPPY NEW YEAR



## STRING QUARTETS

Add effortless adornment to bare walls with a striking macramé wall hanging. Criss-cross the delicate strands to create a unique pattern. A cost-effective and speedy-to-make party piece you can use again and again.

## SPELL IT OUT

There's nothing that can't be conveyed with the power of wool so make sure your guests get the message! With pipe cleaners to provide structure, spell out words of welcome, the numbers of the new year or simply shout YAY!



## MATERIALS

- Yarn (to make the set)
  - Erika Knight British Blue Wool 25g balls in:
    - Yarn A:** 4 x Iced Gem (shade 108)
    - Yarn B:** 3 x Pretty (shade 105)
    - Yarn C:** 3 x Gift (shade 107)
  - Twilleys Goldfingering in 25g balls:
    - Yarn D:** 3 x Gold
- Needles
  - 3.25mm (UK 10, US 3) double-pointed needles
  - 4mm (UK 8, US 6) straight needles
  - 4mm (UK 8, US 6) double-pointed needles
- Accessories
  - Pipe cleaners
  - Florist wire
  - 3 x glass tealight holders
  - Tooth picks or straws



## YARN DETAIL

- Erika Knight British Blue Wool
  - erikaknight.co.uk
  - 0333 6665333
- DK weight
  - 100% wool
  - 25g/55m (60yds)
  - Machine wash at 30°C
  - £3.95
- Twilleys Goldfingering
  - tbramsden.co.uk
  - 01943 872264
- 4ply
  - 80% viscose, 20% polyester
  - 25g/100m (109yds)
  - Handwash
  - £3.35

## TENSION

For Erika Knight British Blue Wool: 22 sts and 30 rows over pattern using 4mm needles to make a 10cm or 4in square

- Turn to page 96 for a full list of abbreviations

## BIG BUNTING

Everyone loves bunting and this delicately shimmering version is perfect for adding subtle sparkle to your décor. Make twelve (four in each colour).

Using 4mm straight knitting needles and D cast on 1 st.

- Row 1 (RS):** Kfb. 2 sts
- Row 2 (WS):** Knit.
- Row 3:** K1, m1, k1. 3 sts
- Row 4:** Knit.
- Change to yarn A, B or C.
- Row 5:** K1, m1, k1, m1, k1. 5 sts
- Row 6:** Knit.
- Change to yarn D.
- Row 7:** K1, m1, k3, m1, k1. 7 sts
- Row 8, 9 and 10:** Knit.
- Change to A, B or C.
- Row 11:** K1, m1, k5, m1, k1. 9 sts
- Row 12:** Knit.
- Change to yarn D.
- Row 13 and 14:** Knit.
- Row 15:** K1, m1, k7, m1, k1. 11 sts
- Row 16:** Knit.
- Change to yarn A, B or C.
- Row 17 and 18:** Knit.
- Change to yarn D.
- Row 19:** K1, m1, k9, m1, k1. 13 sts
- Row 20:** Knit.
- Change to yarn A, B or C.
- Row 21 and 22:** Knit.
- Change to yarn D.
- Row 23:** K1, m1, k11, m1, k1. 15 sts
- Row 24:** Knit.
- Change to yarn A, B or C.
- Row 25 and 26:** Knit.
- Change to D.
- Row 27:** K1, m1, k13, m1, k1. 17 sts
- Row 28:** Knit.
- Cont in yarn A, B or C only.
- Inc 1 st at each end of next and every foll 4th row to 27 sts.
- Knit 2 rows. Cast off knitwise on a WS row.

## MINI BUNTING

Brighten dull corners and the back of doors with these sweet and simple flags with a twinkly gilded finish

Make twelve (four in each colour)  
Work as for big bunting to row 27. 17 sts  
Knit two rows.  
Cast off knit-wise on a WS row.

## CAKE FLAGS

Use your colourful woolly pennants to make sure your favourite cupcake is captured and claimed as your own!

Make six cake flags, two in each pastel colour.  
Using 4mm knitting needles and yarn A, B or C, cast on 10 sts.  
**Row 1 (RS):** Knit.  
**Row 2 (WS):** K3, yo, k2tog, ssk, yo, k3.  
Rep the last 2 rows 3 times more.  
Change to D.  
Work rows 1 and 2 once more.  
Change to A.  
Work rows 1 and 2 once more.  
Change to D.  
Work rows 1 and 2 once more.  
Change to A, B or C.  
Work row 1.  
Cast off knitwise on WS row.  
Poke straws or tooth picks into the markers to finish.





## DIAMOND MOBILES

Made with the addictive i-cord, these unusual mobiles are perfect for displaying delicate sprigs

### Small diamond mobile

- 1 First cut 3cm x 52cm (1½in x 20½in) lengths of wire.
- 2 Using 4mm double-pointed needles and holding yarn C and D together, cast on 4 sts.
- 3 Using i-cord method (see the tutorial on page 31) and working around the wire, knit until work measures 48cm (18¾in) leaving 2cm (¾in) of wire each side of knitting.
- 4 Fold the knitting covered wire to make a square shape (12cm or 4¾in between each fold), using the extra 2cm (¾in) of wire to join the square together.
- 5 Stitch cast off edge to cast on edge.
- 6 Make two more squares.
- 7 Create a diamond shape by wrapping long lengths of yarn C and D together to hold the shape in place.

### Medium diamond mobile

- 1 Cut 2cm x 74cm (¾in x 29½in) and 1cm x



- 66cm (½in x 26in) lengths of wire.

- 2 Using 4mm double-pointed needles and holding yarn A and D together, cast on 4 sts. Using i-cord method (working in rounds) around wire, knit until work measures 70cm (27½in) leaving 2cm (¾in) of wire each side of knitting.

- 3 Fold the knitting wrapped wire to make a diamond shape (12cm or 4¾in for top of diamond and 23cm or 9in for bottom of diamond) using 2cm (¾in) of wire to join diamond together.

- 4 Stitch cast off edge to cast on edge.

- 5 Make one more diamond.

- 6 Using 4mm double-pointed needles and holding yarn A and D together, cast on 4 sts.

- 7 Using i-cord method (working in rounds) around wire, knit until work measures 62cm (24½in) leaving 2cm (¾in) of wire each side of knitting.

- 8 Fold knitting wrapped wire to make a square shape (15.5cm or 6in between each fold) using 2cm (¾in) of wire to join square together.

- 9 Stitch cast off edge to cast on edge.

- 10 Create diamond shape by wrapping long lengths of yarn A and D together to hold shape in place.

### Large diamond mobile

- 1 Cut 3cm x 68cm (1½in x 26¾in) lengths of wire.

- 2 Using 4mm (US 6) double pointed needles and holding yarn B and D together, cast on 4 sts. Using i-cord method (working in rounds) around wire, knit until work measures 64cm (16cm) leaving 2cm (¾in) of wire each side of knitting.

- 3 Fold knitting wrapped wire to make a square shape using 2cm (¾in) of wire »





to join square together.

4 Stitch cast off edge to cast on edge.

5 Make two more squares.

6 Create diamond shape by wrapping long lengths of yarn C and D together to hold shape in place.

Use lengths of D to hang each diamond. Arrange pretty sprigs in the each diamond and group together for impact.

## TEALIGHT COSIES

**Personalised, shimmering tealight cosies these will add a warmth and glow late into the evening.**

Make three tealight cosies, one in each colour. Using 4mm straight knitting needles and yarn A, B or C, cast on 11 sts.

**Row 1:** K2, \*p1, k1; rep from \* to last 3 sts, p1, k2.

**Row 2:** As row 1.

These 2 rows form moss stitch pattern with garter edging, repeat until work fits circumference of glass tea light holder.

### MAKING UP

Using yarn D and running stitch, embroider 'party' on cosy made in yarn B, 'time' on cosy made in yarn A and 'I' on cosy made in yarn C. Join cast on edge to cast off edge using mattress stitch.

## I-CORD LETTERS

**Let your knitting do the talking and spell out exactly how you feel with chunky, fun i-cord lettering**

Using 4mm double-pointed needles and yarn A, cast on 6 sts. Divide these 6 sts over 2 needles (3 sts per needle). Work each letter as follows:

### Letter Y

1 Cut a 19cm (7½in) length of pipe cleaner.

2 Working in rounds around pipe cleaner, knit to end of pipe cleaner and until work measures 7cm (2¾in) from cast on edge.

3 Join in yarn D, holding yarn A and D together continue to knit around pipe cleaner until work measures 20cm (7¾in).

4 Cut yarn leaving a long tail and pull tight through 6sts. Fasten off.

5 Cut a 12cm (4¾in) length of pipe cleaner. Using 4mm needles and holding yarn A and D together cast on 6 sts.

6 Working in rounds around pipe cleaner, knit to end of pipe cleaner and until work measures 10cm (4in) from cast on edge. Cut yarn leaving a long tail and pull tight through 6sts.

7 Use the extra 2cm (¾in) of pipe cleaner left to wrap around 20cm (7¾in) length of knitting (11cm or 4½in up from cast on edge) to form a 'Y' shape.



8 Cut a long length of A and D together and to cover exposed pipe cleaner wrap around the join.

### Letter A

1 Cut a 34cm (13½in) length of pipe cleaner and fold in half.

2 Working in rounds around pipe cleaner, knit to end of pipe cleaner and until work measures 10cm from cast on edge.

3 Join in yarn D, holding yarn A and D together continue to knit around pipe cleaner until work measures 31cm (12¼in).

4 Continue in yarn A only, knit until work measures 36cm (14in). Cut yarn leaving a long tail and pull tight through 6 sts.

5 Cut a 8cm (3in) length of pipe cleaner.

6 Using 4mm needles and holding yarn A and D together cast on 6 sts.

Working in rounds around pipe cleaner, knit until work measures 4cm (1½in) from cast on edge.

7 Use the 2cm (¾in) length of pipe cleaner at each end of the knitting to join to main part of the letter.

8 Cut a long length of yarn A and D together to cover the exposed pipe cleaner and wrap around each join.

### Letter Y

Now work a second 'Y' joining yarn D after 11cm (4½in), instead of 9cm (3½in).





## MACRAMÉ HANGING

Create your own piece of striking textile art with bold gold and blue geometric shapes softened with tasselled fringing

1 Cut 12cm x 136cm (4¾in x 53½in) length in yarn A, 6cm x 136cm (2¼in x 53½in) length of yarn in each colour yarn B, C and D and 1x 200cm (78¾in) length in yarn D.  
2 Lay 200cm (78¾in) length in yarn D flat and weighted down at each end.  
3 Begin 12cm (4¾in) inwards and with 1 x 136cm (53½in) length in yarn A fold over and tie to yarn D as if you are making a tassel. Use a knot to secure tassel.  
4 Leave a 6cm (2¼in) gap between each tassel then attach a further 5 x 136cm (53½in) lengths in yarn A, 6 x 136cm (53½in) lengths in B, 6 x 136cm (53½in) lengths in C and then a further 6 x 136cm (53½in) lengths of A.  
5 Beginning on the right, and working on the first two 136cm (53½in) lengths, measure down 6cm (2¼in) and tie a double standard knot. Repeat with next two 136cm (53½in) strands until row is complete. Repeat on row below and tidy up any loose tassels.

For step-by-step instructions on how to make the macramé hanging, refer to the blog post at [knit-today.com](http://knit-today.com)

## SIMPLE STARS

Let the stars fall from the sky and your needles – use them like confetti to sparkle up your party table!

Make as many stars as you'd like across your table.

Using 3.25mm double-pointed needles and yarn D cast on 4 sts.  
Divide these 4 sts over three needles.

**Rnd 1:** Kfb to end. 8 sts

**Round 2:** Knit.

**Round 3:** \*Kfb; rep from \* to last st, k1. 15 sts  
\*\*Now work, k1, m1, k1, m1, k1 (5 sts) onto 1 needle leaving any remaining sts on other needles. You will now work straight on these 5sts only.

**Row 1 (WS):** Purl.

**Row 2:** Ssk, k1, k2tog. 3 sts

**Row 3:** P3tog. 1 st

Fasten off.

Now join yarn to remaining sts and repeat from \*\* until all five points of the star are complete.

Fasten off all loose ends. 

## SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO MAKE AN I-CORD



**1** Cast on 3 stitches onto one of your DPNs.



**2** Knit these 3 stitches so that they all end up on the right needle. Do not turn your work.



**3** Slide stitches from one end of needle to the other. With RS facing you, knit into right-most stitch on left needle, pulling working yarn across the back of the stitches to begin next row.



# MY KNITTING LIFE

## ...AT CHRISTMAS TIME

Designer **Jessica Biscoe** talks speedy chunky knits and mag subscriptions to help with last-minute gifts!



**A**t this time of year you'll usually find me camped on the sofa under a knitted blanket, with a pot of tea close by. There's nothing cosier in my opinion, especially if there's an open fire involved (which is on my Christmas wish list, in case Santa is reading this). This is also when I start thinking about gifts. But being so last minute can make it hard to organise anything knitted. If this sounds all too familiar, here are a few magical ways to sneak in some yarny yuletide goodness...

### THINK BIG!

Supersize your needles and yarn! Holding chunky yarns double or treble will speed up your making time and stash bust all at once. Try the aptly named Eleventh Hour Blanket, a free pattern by purlsoho.com, knitted using jumbo double strands of Cascade Magnum. You could stay simple but maintain impact with The Big Hat by sheepandstitch.com – a gorgeous one-skein pattern that can be whipped up in less than a day. Or if budget allows, loopymango.com are a luxurious choice for brightly coloured makes with mega chunky appeal. Their Big Loop bundles

can be made into hats, garments and blankets with 25mm needles.

### SOCK IT TO THEM

Save precious time by mass producing multiples of the same pattern for friends and family, and then have fun by personalising the colours to suit their style. Smaller items like my knitted bow necklaces are great for knitting en masse, and can be easily adapted into rings, bracelets or earrings using different jewellery settings.

Consider a pair of cosy socks – always a

winner especially the chunky lovelies (below) by Toft Alpaca. If you're super-speedy, you could knit them two at a time using the wonderful magic loop method!

### IT'S A WRAP

To give your handknits an extra special finish include luggage labels – either print your own or look online. As well as being a stylish gift tag, they can also display washing instructions so the recipient knows how to look after the beautiful homemade gift.



"ADD MULLED WINE, MINCE PIES AND UPLIFTING CHRISTMAS CAROLS FOR THE PERFECT FESTIVE KNITTING"





Even when I'm not able to make the gift myself, I still love to use Kraft-style brown paper and yarn ribbons to pretty up a package, and then add a brightly-coloured wool pom-pom on top!

#### GIFTS FOR KNITTERS

And what about other knitters in your life? We can be a tricky bunch to buy for so think outside the box. Maybe an annual subscription for a great knitting magazine like *Knit Today*, or look online for a local workshop, or what about stitching a gorgeous pattern via Ravelry.


com, along with a ball of wool? New knitters will love the simplicity of the Stitch & Story kits!

So whether you're able to curate a whole range of handmade gifts, or add a woolly embellishment, there's definitely time to jolly up your Christmas gift-giving with yarn. Just add mulled wine, mince pies and uplifting carols for the perfect festive knitting!

- 1 Jessica's dreaming of an open fire!
- 2 The Eleventh Hour Blanket by purlsoho.com
- 3 Chunky cable socks from thetoftalpachashop.co.uk
- 4 The Big Hat by sheepandstitch.com
- 5 Baker's twine from notonthehighstreet.com
- 6 Go luxe with loopymango.com
- 7 Luggage tags from notonthehighstreet.com
- 8 Jessica's sweet on the latest honeycomb trend
- 9 Make friends at a stitchandstory.com workshop
- 10 A mag subscription is a gift that keeps on giving

#### TREND SPOT

## KEEPING ME INSPIRED...

Keeping cosy and warm in the chillier months can feel like a constant quest, plus it can freeze up the creative process. There's only so much a tin of soup and a turned up radiator can do. So thank the Christmas stars for these innovative and amazing creations from the Madrid-based designer *Delpozo*. His plush honeycomb cables, artistic flair and vivid use of colour are fuelling my imagination for 2016 and kick-starting my cold mornings! Watch out for his influence on every catwalk, high street and knitting pattern very soon! 







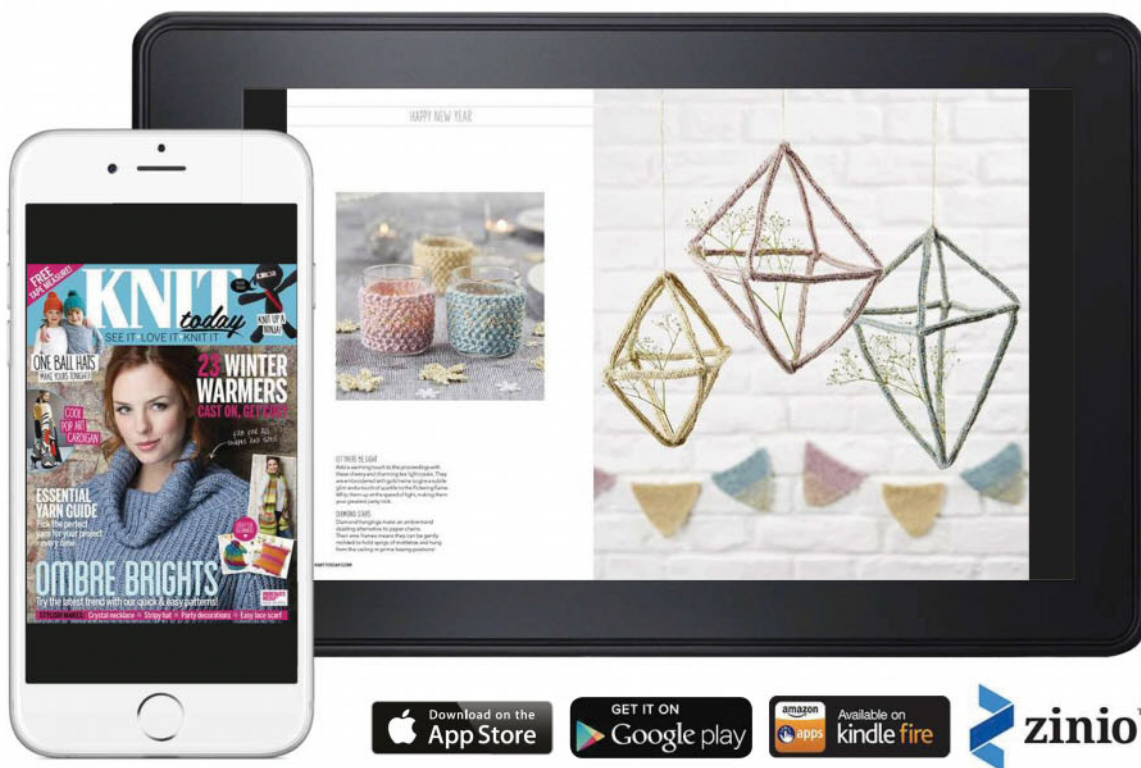
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HHHHH  
YAAAA





# NINJA KNIT

He may only be small, but **Angela Turner's** action hero packs a powerful punch!

EASY-PEASY  
& PLAYFUL

**T**his mighty little chap looks quite menacing clad top to toe in jet black with a sash in matador red but, underneath his tough exterior, this nifty ninja is a real softy. Knitted in Stylecraft's Special DK, this supple yarn is hardwearing too so it's just right for a knitted figure that may come in for some rough and tumble. Worked in plain stocking stitch in one colour and with his simple body shape he'll be fairly easy to construct. When he's finished, station your tiny woolly fighter next to the craft cupboard so he can guard your stash! »



# NINJA FIGURE



## MATERIALS

- Yarn
  - Stylecraft Special DK
  - 1 x 100g balls in Apricot (1026), Black (1002) and Matador (1010)
- Needles
  - 3mm (UK 11, US 2/3) needles
- Extras
  - Polyester filling
  - 2 small black beads

## YARN DETAIL

- Stylecraft Special DK
  - Stylecraft-yarns.co.uk
  - 01535 609798
- Acrylic 100%
- 100g/295m
- Machine wash 40°C
- £1.99

## TENSION

26 sts and 34 rows to 10cm or 4in measured over st st using 3mm needles

## SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

**pfb** purl into the front and back of the next stitch

## FINISHED SIZE

Stands 30cm (12in) tall

- Turn to page 96 for full list of abbreviations

## LEGS AND ARMS (MAKE 4)

Using Black, cast on 4 sts.

**Row 1 (RS):** Kfb to end. 8 sts

**Row 2 (WS):** Pfb to end. 16 sts

**Next row:** Knit.

**Next row:** Knit.

Starting with a knit row, work 10 rows st st.

**Next row:** (K2tog, k2) to end. 12 sts

Starting with a purl row, work 9 rows st st.

**Next row:** (K2tog, k1) to end. 8 sts

Starting with a purl row, work 9 rows st st.

**Next row:** (K2tog) to end. 4 sts

Cut yarn and thread through sts.

Pull up tightly then sew seam to centre of leg/arm. Gather round cast on sts at base and pull up tightly. Sew seam, leaving a 2.5cm (1in) gap. Turn right side out and stuff firmly with filling, a little at a time. Sew rem seam.

## BODY AND HEAD

Using Black, cast on 6 sts.

**Row 1 (WS):** Purl.

**Row 2 (RS):** Kfb to end. 12 sts

**Next row:** Purl.

**Next row:** (Kfb, k1) to end. 18 sts

Starting with a purl row, st st 3 rows.

**Next row:** (Kfb, k2) to end.

24 sts

Starting with a purl row, st st 9 rows.

**Next row:** (K4, k2tog) to end. 20 sts

Starting with a purl row, st st 3 rows.

**Next row:** (K3, k2tog) to end. 16 sts

Starting with a purl row, st st 3 rows.

**Next row:** (K2, k2tog) to end. 12 sts

**Next row:** Purl.

**Next row:** (K1, k2tog) to end. 8 sts

**Next row:** (P2tog) to end. 4 sts

**Next row:** Kfb to end. 8 sts

**Next row:** Purl.

Rep last 2 rows twice more. 32 sts

**Next row:** (K1, kfb) to end.

48 sts

Starting with a purl row, st st 7 rows.

Change to Apricot and st st 4 rows.

Change to Black and st st 4 rows.

**Next row:** (K4, k2tog) to end. 40 sts

**Next (and every alt) row:** Purl.

**Next row:** (K3, k2tog) to end. 32 sts

**Next row:** (K2, k2tog) to end. 24 sts

**Next row:** (K1, k2tog) to end. 16 sts

**Next row:** P2tog to end. 8 sts

Cut yarn and thread through.

Pull up tightly and secure. Gather round cast on sts and pull up tightly.

Sew body seam, leaving a gap near neck



Ninjas wear black, but why not dare to be different and knit him in yarn from your stash

and sew head seam, leaving a small gap in head. Turn right side out and stuff with filling, a little at a time. Sew rem body seam. Run a length of black yarn around neck and pull up tightly. Mark position of eyes in the apricot stripe with 5 sts in between. Sew a black bead for each eye, tying threads tog in gap at back of head. Add a little more filling before sewing rem seam. Sew a small straight st diagonally to the outside of each eye for eyebrows. Sew legs and arms to body securely.

## HEAD SCARF

Using Black, cast on 38 sts.

St st 4 rows.

Cast off.

Place on top of apricot stripe round head, sew in position, ensuring amount of sts on either side of eye are equal.

## TIES (MAKE 2)

Using Black, cast on 7 sts.

Cast off. Sew ties on ninja's right side of head scarf.

## STRAP

Using Matador, cast on 40 sts.

Cast off. Sew ends tog and place strap over right shoulder. Secure in place at shoulder to finish.



# Inspired.



Signatureneedlearts.com

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## MAX'S WORLD

Knitting designer and artist **Max Alexander** explains how her humble woolly moths have sent her career soaring





1

**M**ax Alexander, creator of Max's World, started designing jewellery for knitters in May 2009. However her yearning to work with wool, even during the trickier summer months, led to a growing obsession with knitted creatures. Her busy Knitting Octopus pattern was an instant hit and is still her most popular to date. Since turning her needles in the direction of the humble moth, which she creates from a corner of her living room in her London flat, they have been flying off the shelves. We caught up with her to ask how it all came about.

#### TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WHEN YOU STARTED KNITTING. WHO TAUGHT YOU?

I started knitting nearly 10 years ago when my mum gave me a pair of knitting needles and yarn for my twentieth birthday. I taught myself to knit from books and online tutorials and the first thing I made was a very hole-y scarf! I soon learnt to fix my mistakes. I'm quite prone to errors so I've always loved that you can just unravel your work and start again.

#### YOUR BEAUTIFUL KNITTED MOTHS HAVE BEEN A HUGE HIT AROUND THE WORLD. WHERE DID YOU GET THE IDEA TO CREATE THEM?

In early 2014 a friend suggested I knit a Rosy Maple Moth. He'd seen my octopus and a salamander I'd made, and as he is a massive moth fan, said he thought a moth would look good. Until then I had no idea moths could be so beautiful. The Rosy Maple is a bright pink and yellow moth, and I kept discovering moths that I knew would look wonderful in knit form. Previously, I'd always thought of moths as tiny beige things that would eat my wool! Who knew how varied they could be, as opposed to butterflies which everyone knows are colourful and fancy. The first one I made was the Squeaking Silkmoth, partly because I thought the name was lovely and partly because I already had the orangey and brown colours needed!

#### THEY LOOK AMAZING. ARE THEY DIFFICULT TO KNIT?

Yes, they can be. Especially the ones with a lot of colours. I've had up to eight strands a row and I sometimes spend more time untangling than I do knitting. I make a chart and adjust it as I



4



2



3

**Main image:** The now-extinct *Urania Sloanus* moth

1 Max's moths from left to right, Ornate Tiger Moth; *Automeris lo*; *Zamarada*

2 The famous Knitting Octopus

3 Max Alexander working in her flat-based studio

4 The brightly coloured Rosy Maple Moth

go along but you have to pay close attention to every stitch to make sure the left and right wings match. The multi-coloured *Automeris lo* was probably the most difficult so far. To get it to look right, I had to combine intarsia and stranded knitting.

#### DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS TO CREATE MORE MOTHS? IT SEEMS YOU COULD GO ON FOREVER...

Yes, I have a very long list of moths I want to knit! I keep coming across more and more amazing species with incredible patterns on their wings. I really love the challenge of knitting more complex designs. I loved making Tiger Moths and have made three different types so far. Their stripy bodies are really satisfying to knit for some reason. I'm also interested in knitting extinct

»





7



## "IT'S A HUGE COMPLIMENT WHEN SOMEONE WANTS SOMETHING YOU'VE MADE IN THEIR HOME"

- 5 Mega Moth was created from an old moth-eaten shawl
- 6 Mega Moth's holes are patched with little moths

moths to highlight the loss of creatures you wouldn't necessarily think of as being endangered. One of the most spectacular moths I've made was the *Urania Sloanus*, which sadly became extinct in the early 1900s. I studied images of museum specimens to create that one but ideally I like to use images of moths in their natural habitats.

### DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS TO EXPAND THIS IDEA TO OTHER INSECTS?

I've started a folder of other bugs that I'd like to knit. It has a few beetles and spiders in it so far. I've definitely got something to move on to if I get bored of moths. I'll probably do some butterflies too as I've already had a few requests.

### WE'VE NOTICED A REAL MOVEMENT OF CRAFT ARTISTS RECREATING INSECTS IN KNITTING, SEWING, CROCHET AND MULTIMEDIA. WERE YOU INSPIRED BY ANYONE?

I made a giant moth out of a moth eaten shawl which I darned back together and used tiny moths to fill the holes. I was definitely influenced by the visible mending work of textile artists Celia Pym and Tom Of Holland for that piece. I'm also inspired by the innovative designs of Felt Mistress aka Louise Evans, particularly her gorgeously vivid felt beetles.

### WHAT'S THE FEEDBACK BEEN ON YOUR MOTHS?

Very positive. Not long after I started making them I was offered an exhibition at Prick Your Finger, a yarn store in London that regularly shows the work of textile artists. It gave me an incentive to create lots of different species, all of which were knitted using 100% Shetland Wool. I framed them and labelled them with their common and scientific names so it had the atmosphere of a natural history museum. I really

enjoyed showing them as a collection. People were interested to find out about the different moths and it was exciting to sell some of them. It feels like a huge compliment when someone wants to have something you've made in their home.

### SOCIAL MEDIA IS SUCH A BIG PLAYER WHEN IT COMES TO PROMOTING YOUR CRAFTS. DO YOU FIND TIME TO POST ONLINE?

Hardly any time at all but it can be useful when I need to put information online immediately. I post a lot more on Instagram as I prefer pictures to words, plus it is much quicker!

### WHAT OTHER KNITTED ITEMS DO YOU SELL IN YOUR SHOP?

Handmade knitting, crochet and craft-themed jewellery. I spend a lot of my time making miniature knitting needles and balls of yarn. The mini knitting earrings are always very popular. I also sell greetings cards of the moths and other knitted creatures including The Knitting Octopus. He's one of my most well known designs and I also have the pattern for sale so people can knit their own.

### WHERE DO YOU CREATE YOUR KNITTED MOTHS?

I design and knit all my moths at a desk in the corner of my living room, although I'm considering moving my work into a studio before my yarn takes over the entire flat. My boyfriend Jon has been very tolerant to the mess so far but I don't want to push my luck! I'm always listening to or watching something while I work. I alternate between Radio 6 Music and Netflix. I





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enjoy trashy entertaining American series, as long as they don't require too much attention! Once I tried watching a really tense drama and the more anxious I became, the tighter and tinier my knitting became, so I had to start all over again!

#### HAVE YOU HAD ANY OTHER CAREERS?

I've been selling my work for nearly seven years, which I've done alongside a variety of part time and freelance work.

I also do a bit of web design, install exhibitions and work in a gorgeous yarn shop - which I totally love.

#### HOW DID YOUR ANIMATION WORK COME ABOUT?

I started experimenting with knitted stop motion animations whilst doing a sculpture degree at Camberwell College of Arts. I ended up using them as music videos for friends' bands. I also did a three month course in stop motion animation with

Aardman Animation in Bristol. It was really cool to use the same type of puppets they use for all the Wallace & Gromit films. I'd




9



10

like to do more animations at some point in the future, but it's a very slow process and requires a lot more space than I have right now.

#### SO WHAT'S IN THE PIPELINE NEXT FOR MAX'S WORLD? ARE THERE ANY BOOKS ON THE CARDS?

I love taking my work out into the big wide world and meeting other crafty people in the process. This year I've been to the I Knit Fandango in London, Yarn in the City and Yarnale. Some of my moths will be on display in Scotland at the Winter Warmth exhibition at The Park Gallery in Falkirk, at the end of this year. If my moths increase in popularity, I may do more art and craft fairs that aren't so focused on knitting and see what happens. I would like to write a book at some point but there are no immediate plans. There's so much I want to make right now, I don't know when I'd find time to actually write about it all! 

Visit Max's World: [maxsworld.co.uk](http://maxsworld.co.uk)  
facebook.com/maxsworld  
Twitter @maxsworld

7 From top to bottom - Squeaking Silkmoth; Tartagina Picta; Cherry Spot Moth; Tiger Moth; Miliona basalis

8 Max's bestselling dangly knitting earrings

9 Earrings also come in different colours and little stud versions

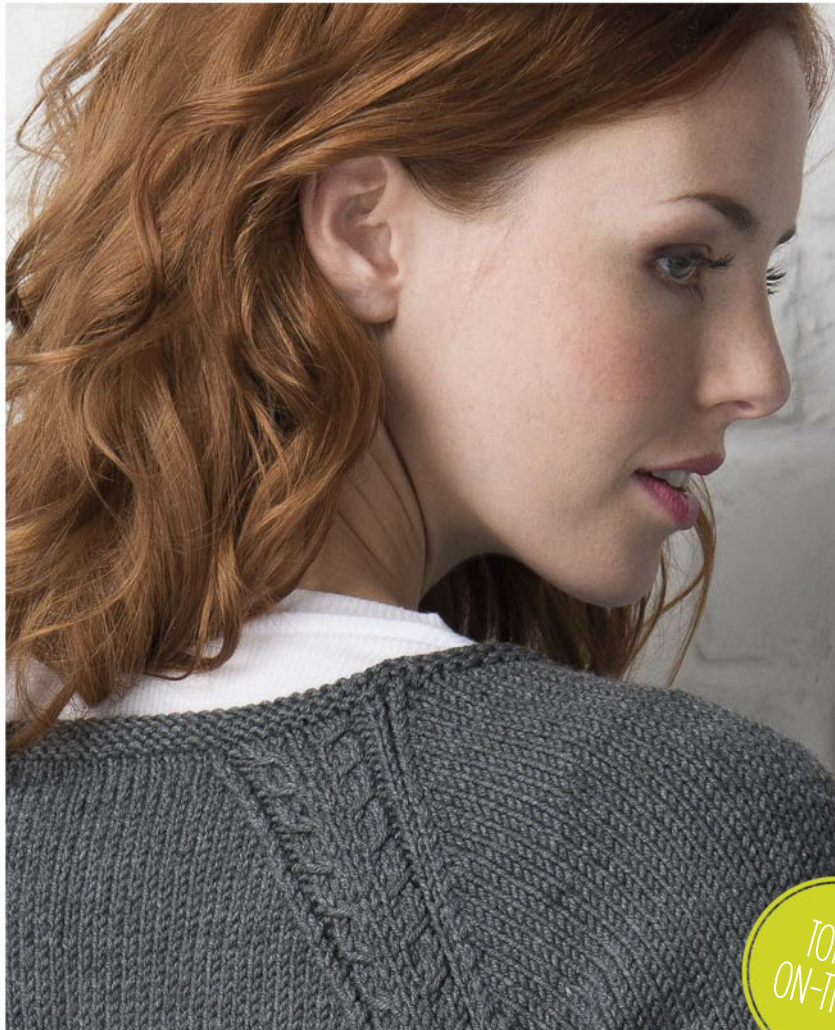
10 Max enjoys taking her work out on the road











## PEEK-A-BOO

Give the cool neon trend a subtle nod  
with **Sarah Hatton**'s colour pop top



# NEON ZING



## MATERIALS

- Yarn  
**Yarn A:** 10 (11:13:14:16)  
50g balls of Rowan  
Superfine Merino DK in  
Steel (shade 144)  
**Yarn B:** 1 x 50g balls of  
Rowan Superfine Merino in  
Zing (shade 146)
- Needles  
3.25mm (UK 10, US 3)  
4mm (UK 8, US 6)  
Cable needle

## YARN DETAIL

- Rowan Superfine Merino  
DK knitrowan.co.uk  
01484 681881
- DK weight
- 100% wool
- 50g/115m (126yds)
- Machine wash at 40°C
- £5.75

## TENSION

22 sts and 30 rows over st st  
using 4mm needles to make a  
10cm or 4in square

## YARN ALTERNATIVES

- Patons Merino Extrafine DK  
makeitcoats.com
- Lang Yarns Merino 120  
langyarns.com

## SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

- C3B** slip 2 sts onto cable  
needle and hold at back,  
k1, then k2 from cable  
needle
- C3F** slip 1 st onto cable  
needle and hold at front,  
k2, then k1 from cable  
needle
- pfb** purl into the front and  
back of the next stitch

- Turn to page 96 for a full  
list of abbreviations

**W**hen it comes to uber trends  
like gorgeous knitted neon,  
you can either blast it out in a  
full-on explosion of brightness, or use it  
to enhance teeny tiny details or great  
structure. Whatever your preference,  
Sarah Hatton's simple jumper is one  
you'll want to make, just reverse the  
colour combination for a bolder finish.

## BACK

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn A, cast on  
109 (119:133:147:161) sts.

**Row 1 (RS):** \*K1, p1, rep from \* to last st, k1.

**Row 2 (WS):** \*P1, k1, rep from \* to last st,  
p1. These 2 rows set rib.

Work a further 4 rows in rib, dec 1 st at end  
of last row. 108 (118:132:146:160) sts

**Change to 4mm needles.** \*\*

\*\*\*Beg with a knit row, working in st st  
(throughout) cont until back meas  
16 (17:18:19:20) cm, 6¼ (6½:7:7½:8) in,  
ending with RS facing for next row.

**Next row (RS):** K2, s1, k1, psso, knit to last  
4 sts, k2tog, k2. 106 (116:130:144:158) sts  
Working all decs as set by last row, dec 1 st  
at each end of three foll 16th rows.

100 (110:124:138:152) sts  
Cont straight until back meas  
40 (41:42:43:44) cm, 15¾ (16:16½:17:17¼)  
in, ending with RS facing for next row.

## Shape raglan armholes

**Next row (RS):** Cast off 4 (4:5:5:6) sts, knit  
to end. 96 (106:119:133:146) sts

**Next row (WS):** Cast off 4 (4:5:5:6) sts, p4,  
pfb, purl to last 5 sts, pfb, p4.  
94 (104:116:130:142) sts

**Next row:** K2, p1, C3B, k1, C3F, p1, s1, k1,

psso (raglan dec), knit to last 13 sts, k2tog  
(raglan dec), p1, C3B, k1, C3F, p1, k2.

92 (102:114:128:140) sts

**Next row:** P2, k1, p7, k1, (p2tog – raglan  
dec) 0 (1:1:1:1) times, purl to last 11  
(13:13:13:13) sts, (p2tog tbl – raglan dec)  
0 (1:1:1:1) times, k1, p7, k1, p2.

92 (100:112:126:138) sts

These 2 rows set raglan armhole shaping  
and cable patt. \*\*\*\*

Noting that cable patt will be worked on  
3rd and every foll 4th row, cont as folls:

## 1st size only

Work 6 rows dec 1 st at each end as set on  
3rd row. 90 sts

## 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th sizes only

Work (2:8:20:26) rows dec 1 st at each end  
as set on every row. (96:96:86:86) sts

## All sizes

Dec 1 st at each end as set on 1st and  
22 (25:24:19:18) foll alt rows.

Work 1 row.

Leave rem 44 (44:46:46:48) sts on a holder.

## POCKET LINING (MAKE 2)

Using 4mm needles and yarn B,  
cast on 22 sts.

Beg with a knit row, work 34 rows in st st.  
Leave these sts on a holder.

## FRONT

Work as given for back to \*\*.

Beg with a knit row work 34 rows in st st.

**Next row (RS):** K6 (11:18:25:32), p22, k52,  
p22, k6 (11:18:25:32).

**Next row (WS):** P6 (11:18:25:32), k22, p52,  
k22, p6 (11:18:25:32).

## MEASUREMENT RAGLAN JUMPER

TO FIT SIZE		S	M	L	XL	XXL
TO FIT BUST	cm	81-86	91-97	102-107	112-117	122-127
	in	32-34	36-38	40-42	44-46	48-50
ACTUAL BUST	cm	90	100	112	124	138
	in	35½	39½	44	48¾	54¼
LENGTH	cm	61	63	65	67	69
	in	24	24¾	25½	26½	27¼
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	45	46	47	47	47
	in	17¾	18¼	18½	18½	18½



## Place pocket

**Next row (RS):** K6 (11:18:25:32), cast off next 22 sts, k52, cast off next 22 sts, k6 (11:18:25:32)

**Next row (WS):** P6 (11:18:25:32), p22 from 1st stitch holder, p52, p22 from 2nd stitch holder, p6 (11:18:25:32).

Work as given for back from \*\*\* to \*\*\*\*. Noting that cable patt will be worked on 3rd and every foll 4th row, working all raglan decs as set on back, cont as folls:

## 1st size only

Work 6 rows dec 1 st at each end of 3rd row. 90 sts

Work 10 rows dec 1 st at each end of 1st and every foll alt row. 80 sts

## 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th sizes only

Work (2:8:20:22) rows dec 1 st at each end of every row. (96:96:86:94) sts

Work (16:12:2:0) rows dec 1 st at each end of 1st and every foll alt row. (80:84:84:94) sts

## All sizes

Divide for front neck.

**Next row (RS):** Patt 11, s1, k1, psso, k27 (27:29:29:34), turn and leave rem 40 (40:42:42:47) sts on a holder.

39 (39:41:41:46) sts

**Next row (WS):** K3, purl to last 11 (11:11:11:13) sts, (p2tog tbl) 0 (0:0:0:1) times, patt 11. 39 (39:41:41:45) sts

Cont working 3 sts in g st at neck opening edge and rem sts in patt as previously set as folls:

Dec 1 st at raglan armhole edge in next 1 (1:1:1:3) rows, then on foll 7 (7:7:7:6) alt rows. 31 (31:33:33:36) sts

## Shape neck

**Next row (WS):** Cast off 7 (7:7:7:6) sts, purl to last 11 sts, patt 11. 24 (24:26:26:30) sts  
Work 10 (10:12:12:16) rows dec 1 st at raglan edge in 1st and every foll alt row AND AT THE SAME TIME dec 1 st at neck edge in next 3 rows, then on every foll alt row. 13 sts. Leave rem 13 sts on a holder.

With RS facing, rejoin yarn to rem 40 (40:42:42:47) sts on a holder, k3, purl to last 13 sts, k2tog, patt 11. 39 (39:41:41:46) sts

**Next row (WS):** Patt 11, (p2tog) 0 (0:0:0:1) times, purl to last 3 sts, k3. 39 (39:41:41:45) sts

Cont working 3 sts in g st at neck opening edge and rem sts in patt as previously set as folls:

Dec 1 st at raglan armhole edge in next 1 (1:1:1:3) rows, then on foll 6 (6:6:6:5) alt rows. 32 (32:34:34:37) sts

Work 1 row, ending with RS facing for next row.

## Shape neck

**Next row (RS):** Cast off 7 (7:7:7:6) sts, knit to last 13 sts, k2tog, patt 11. 24 (24:26:26:30) sts

Work 1 row.

Work 10 (10:12:12:16) rows dec 1 st at raglan edge in 1st and every foll alt row AND AT THE SAME TIME dec 1 st at neck edge in next 3 rows, then on every foll alt row. 13 sts

Leave rem 13 sts on a holder.

## SLEEVES (BOTH ALIKE)

Using 3.25mm needles cast on 49 (51:53:53:55) sts.

Work 6 rows in rib as given for back, dec 1

st at end of last row. 48 (50:52:52:54) sts

## Change to 4mm needles.

Beg with a knit row and working in st st throughout, inc 1 st at each end of 7th (7th:5th:5th:5th) and 1 (13:5:13:17) foll 6th (8th:6th:6th:6th) rows, then on 13 (1:11:5:2) foll 8th (10th:8th:8th:8th) rows.

78 (80:86:90:94) sts

Cont without shaping until sleeve meas 45 (46:47:47:47) cm, 17¾ (18:18½:18½:18½) in, ending with RS facing for next row.

## Shape raglan

Cast off 4 (4:5:5:6) sts at beg of next 2 rows. 70 (72:76:80:82) sts

**Next row (RS):** K1, s1, k1, psso, knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. 68 (70:74:78:80) sts

**Next row (WS):** P1, p2tog, purl to last 3 sts, p2tog tbl, p1. 66 (68:72:76:78) sts

Working all raglan decs as set by last 2 rows, dec 1 st at each end of next 7 (7:7:9:7) rows, then on every foll alt row until there are 16 sts.

Work 1 row, ending with RS facing for next row.

## Left sleeve

Dec 1 st at raglan edge of next row, then on 3 foll alt rows AND AT THE SAME TIME cast off 3 sts at beg of 2nd and foll 2 alt rows. 3 sts

**Next row:** P3.

Cast off rem 3 sts.

## Right sleeve

Dec 1 st at raglan edge of next row, then on 3 foll alt rows AND AT THE SAME TIME cast off 3 sts at beg of 1st and foll 2 alt rows. 3 sts

**Next row:** P3.

Cast off rem 3 sts.

## MAKING UP

Join raglan seams.


## Neckband

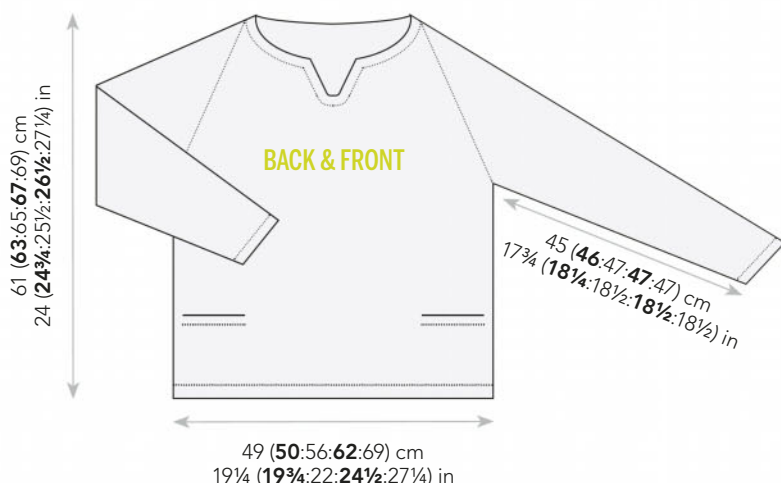
With RS facing, using 3.25mm needles and yarn A, beg and ending at front opening edges, pick up and knit 14 (14:16:16:18) sts up right side of neck, knit across 13 sts from right front holder, pick up and knit 12 sts from top of right sleeve, knit across 44 (44:46:46:48) sts from back holder, pick up and knit 12 sts from top of left sleeve, knit across 13 from left front holder and pick up and knit 14 (14:16:16:18) down left side of neck.

122 (122:128:128:134) sts

Knit 4 rows.

Cast off knitwise on WS.

Join side and sleeve seams. Slip stitch pocket linings to inside. 





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yourself  
a home

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# SHOW US YOURS!

We love seeing all your magical makes, so don't forget to send your snaps – you could win a prize!

## HANDY BADGER

► As I've started working in Wool For Ewe in Aberdeen, I like to keep in the know about the industry and your great mag helps so much. I'm fairly new to hand knitting as I was trained with machine knitting, but now I'm loving exploring new techniques.  
**Nicola, Aberdeen, via twitter**



THIS MONTH WE ASKED YOU...

### WHAT'S YOUR BEST KNITTING TIP?

"ACCEPT THAT 'PERFECT' IS FOR THE MASS PRODUCED AND KEEP ON GETTING BETTER WITH EVERY ITEM COMPLETED. KNITTED WITH LOVE IS BEST, EVEN WITH IMPERFECTIONS."

Sue Stalham

## SHUCKS!

▼ Did you enjoy issue 117? I know I did. I loved the mag's new look. I was also thrilled to see my design on page 60 and a wee interview with yours truly on page 13!  
**Libby Summers, designer**



## PREHISTORIC PAL

▲ Here is my very happy son Austin with the knitted triceratops I made. His name is Timmy, and believe me when I say, he really does go EVERYWHERE with us!  
**Jenny Campbell, via email**

## THE LOWDOWN

To be in with a chance of winning one of three £30 vouchers to spend at LoveKnitting (loveknitting.com), show us your Knit Today makes on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or via email at knittoday@immediate.co.uk. For competition rules please visit [knit-today.com/feature/competition-terms-and-conditions](http://knit-today.com/feature/competition-terms-and-conditions).



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WINNER



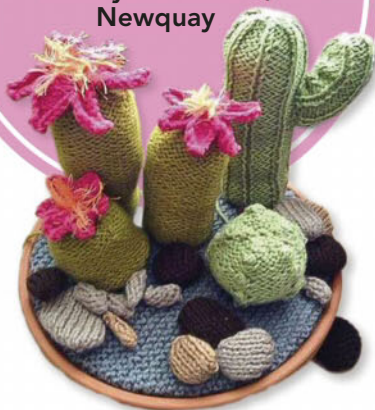
## FLOWER POWER

◀ Deeside Knitwits have been brightening up Scotland with their woolly creations! Rosy Wood, one of the members, explains, "We've been guerrilla knitting for a few years now, creating installations to raise awareness and funds for local charities. Over the past couple of years we've set out trails of knitted red squirrels and knitted birds, along with Elmer, a multi-coloured knitted stag, and a patchwork youth shelter, raising over £2,000 for various charities. This year we're knitting flowers to cover the bridge in the centre of Braemar, and mushrooms for the trail!"

## A BIT SPIKY

Wool is just so versatile... I loved knitting these woolly cacti for a friend of mine!

**Wendy Hammond,  
Newquay**



## TALK TO US!



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## TWEET! TWEET!

Tell us all about your woolly escapades on Twitter!

### HELLO RUDOLPH

**girlwithaduckjumper @saralai**

@KnitToday has a really, really cute reindeer ahhhhhhhhhh!!!!

### BEGINNER'S LUCK

**McA direct @McAdirect**

Fantastic advice from @knittedtoday in latest issue "How to knit like a Pro - go from newbie to know-it-all". Like it. #knitting

### WE LOVE BRISTOL

**Bristol Ivy @BristolIvy**

Here's a great idea: blitz through knitting an entire sample while sick, change the pattern hugely, and take no notes. AWESOME JOB BRISTOL.

### LAZY SUNDAY

**Kate Hansord @theDaphneRosa**

What Sunday mornings are made for... bacon sarnies, tea, pajamas & a little bit of knitting...

### CAT PERSON

**Mari @catulla**

Totally ok w/ being That Person on the train knitting a bag full of hexagons. I'm a librarian. Have you met my cat?



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# LACY LOVELY

Enjoy beautiful, simple lace  
with **Rosee Woodland's** scarf

LEARN A  
NEW STITCH





# LACE SCARF



## MATERIALS

- Yarn  
2 x 50g ball of Rowan Kidsilk Haze Stripe in Cool (shade 202)
- Needles  
4mm (UK 8, US 6) knitting needles  
Stitch markers

## YARN DETAIL

- Rowan Kidsilk Haze Stripe  
knitrowan.com  
01484 681881
- Lace weight
- 70% super kid mohair,  
30% silk
- 50g/420m (459yds)
- Handwash
- £18.25

## TENSION

22 sts and 30 rows over st st using 4mm needles to make a 10cm or 4in square

## FINISHED SIZE

Approximately 44cm x 190cm (17¼in x 75in)

## YARN ALTERNATIVES

- Drops Kid Silk  
garnstudio.com  
jamescbrett.co.uk
- Debbie Bliss Angel Prints  
debbieblissonline.com

## PATTERN NOTE

If desired, place marker between each pattern rep. Slip markers on every row after that.

- Turn to page 96 for a full list of abbreviations

**T**aking the plunge with lace knitting can be a bit daunting but there's no need to worry here! Created in a gorgeous self striping yarn, most of the wow work has already been done for this simple lace scarf. This pattern has several formats to help you to find the way of working that suits how you think!

## WRAP

Cast on 96 sts and knit 11 rows  
Now rep 36 row lace pattern from chart 14 times and then rows 1 to 18 once more OR follow one of the sets of instructions below.

## OPTION A

- Row 1 (RS):** K6, (k2tog, yo, k2tog, yo, k2) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 2 and all (WS) rows:** Knit 6, purl to 6 sts before the end, k6.  
**Row 3:** K6, (yo, k2tog, yo, k2, k2tog) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 5:** K6, (k2tog, yo, k2, k2tog, yo) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 7:** K6, (yo, k2, k2tog, yo, k2tog) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 9:** K6, (k2, k2tog, yo, k2tog, yo) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 11:** K6, (k1, k2tog, yo, k2tog, yo, k1) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 13:** K6, (k2, k2tog, yo, k2tog, yo) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 15:** K6, (k1, k2tog, yo, k2tog, yo, k1) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 17:** K6, (k2tog, yo, k2tog, yo, k2) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 19:** K6, (yo, k2tog, yo, k2, k2tog) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 21:** K6, (k2tog, yo, k2, k2tog, yo) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 23:** K6, (yo, k2, k2tog, yo, k2tog) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 25:** K6, (k2tog, yo, k2, k2tog, yo) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 27:** K6, (yo, k2, k2tog, yo, k2tog) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 29:** K6, (k2, k2tog, yo, k2tog, yo) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 31:** K6, (k1, k2tog, yo, k2tog, yo, k1) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 33:** Knit 6, (k2tog, yo, k2tog, yo, k2) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 35:** K6, (yo, k2tog, yo, k2, k2tog) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 36:** As row 2.

## OPTION B

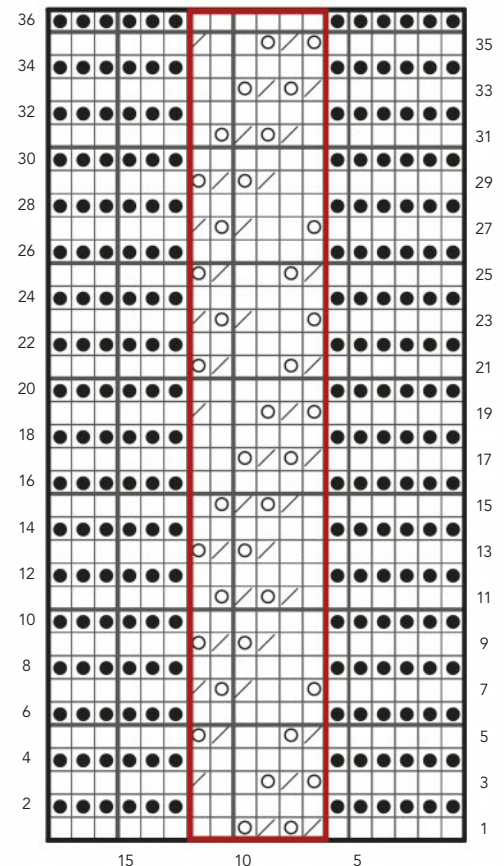
- Row 1 (RS):** K6, (k2tog, yo, k2tog, yo, k2) 14 times, k6.

- Row 2 and all (WS) rows:** Knit 6, purl to 6 sts before the end, k6.  
**Row 3:** K6, (yo, k2tog, yo, k2, k2tog) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 5:** K6, (k2tog, yo, k2, k2tog, yo) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 7:** K6, (yo, k2, k2tog, yo, k2tog) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 9:** K6, (k2, k2tog, yo, k2tog, yo) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 11:** K6, (k1, k2tog, yo, k2tog, yo, k1) 14 times, k6.  
**Row 13:** As row 9.  
**Row 15:** As row 11.  
**Row 17:** As row 1.  
**Row 19:** As row 3.  
**Row 21:** As row 5.  
**Row 23:** As row 7.  
**Row 25:** As row 5.  
**Row 27:** As row 7.  
**Row 29:** As row 9.  
**Row 31:** As row 11.  
**Row 33:** As row 1.  
**Row 35:** As row 3.  
**Row 36:** As row 2.

## KEY

- P on RS, K on WS
- yo
- ▧ K2tog
- K on RS, P on WS

Rep these 36 rows 14 more times and then rows 1 to 18 once more.  
Knit 11 rows. Cast off neatly.





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# SLIP STITCH

Discover a new stitch and how to use it in every issue



## ABOUT SLIP STITCH

If you've mastered garter stitch and stocking stitch, and are keen to try something new, slip stitch is an easy option. This versatile stitch pattern, which is created over four rows of your work, creates a wonderfully thick, textured fabric – a bit like moss stitch (which we showed you back in issue 116). A gorgeous, dense pattern it looks equally good from both sides of your fabric, so you can reverse it to match your project. You'll find that slip stitches pop up constantly as you continue knitting. They often play the creative

part in many patterns, allowing you to create the most amazing textures and fabrics. Keep practising to become confident working slip stitch and recognising when it hasn't been worked correctly in order to make the most of your pattern knitting.

## SLIP STITCH PATTERN

**Row 1 (WS):** P1, \*k1, p1, repeat from \* to the end of the row.

**Row 2 (RS):** K1, \*sl1, k1, repeat from \* to the end of the row.

**Row 3:** K1, \*p1, k1, repeat from \* to the end of the row.

**Row 4:** K2, sl1, \*k1, sl1, repeat from \* to the end of the row.

Over the page Julie Ferguson has created a set of items that look amazingly good in slip stitch. Our trio of breakfast cosies worked in gorgeous King Cole Riot DK in Fab will certainly wake you up in the morning. And, if rainbow bright won't suit your kitchen, just whip them in up a gorgeous DK yarn of your own choice.

**Turn the page for more ideas using this stitch pattern. »**





## MATERIALS

- Yarn  
1 x 100g King Cole Riot DK in Fab (shade 414)  
**Tea cosy:** 42g  
**Egg cosy:** 8g  
**Cafetiere cosy:** 28g
- Needles & accessories  
4mm (UK 8, US 6) knitting needles  
Tapestry needle  
3 x buttons

## YARN DETAIL

- King Cole Riot DK  
kingcole.com  
01756 703670
- DK weight
- 70% acrylic, 30% wool
- 100g/294m (322yds)
- Machine wash at 30°C
- £3.69

## TENSION

26 sts and 52 rows to 10cm or 4in over pattern using 4mm needles

## PATTERN NOTE

Slip all stitches purlwise.

- Turn to page 96 for a full set of abbreviations

## JULIE FERGUSON

Knit designer, Julie, is a huge fan of adding colour and lace work to her knitting. She loves to knit and give shawls, worked in luxury yarns!



 [ravelry.com/designers/julie-ferguson](https://www.ravelry.com/designers/julie-ferguson)







## TEA COSY

Never let a well-made cuppa go un-sipped with this sweet slip stitch tea cosy, complete with gathered rosette on top

Make 2 pieces alike.

Using 4mm needles, cast on 45 sts.  
Knit 6 rows.

**Row 1 (WS):** P1, \*k1, p1, repeat from \* to the end of the row.

**Row 2 (RS):** K1, \*sl1, k1, repeat from \* to the end of the row.

**Row 3:** K1, \*p1, k1, repeat from \* to the end of the row.

**Row 4:** K2, sl1, \*k1, sl1, repeat from \* to the end of the row.

Repeat row 1 to row 4, fifteen more times.  
Purl 1 row.

Work 16 rows in st st.

**Next row:** K1, \*yo, k2tog, repeat from \* to the end of the row.

**Next row:** Purl.

Knit 6 rows.

Cast off.

### Cord

Using 4mm needles, cast on 160 sts.  
Cast off.

### MAKING UP

Sew the side seams, leaving gaps for the handle and spout. Thread cord through eyelets and pull up into a bow

## EGG COSY

We love the cuteness of an egg in a warm hat! Super-quick to make, these cosies are a great talking point for lazy brekkies

Make 2 pieces alike.

Using 4mm needles, cast on 17 sts.  
Knit 2 rows.

Repeat row 1 to row 4 of tea cosy pattern, nine times.

Purl 1 row.

Work 4 rows in st st.

**Next row (RS):** K1, \*yo, k2tog, repeat from \* to the end of the row.

**Next row (WS):** Purl.

Knit 4 rows.

Cast off.

### Cord

Using 4mm needles, cast on 80 sts.  
Cast off.

### MAKING UP

Sew side seams.

Thread cord through eyelets and pull up into a bow.

## CAFETIERE COSY

Brew once, drink hot with this insulating knitted cosy. It's perfect for making a cafetiere-for-one last all morning

To fit 8 cup cafetiere (16cm tall).

Using 4mm needles, cast on 67 sts.  
Knit 6 rows.

**Row 1 (WS):** K4, p1, \*k1, p1, repeat from \* to the last 4 sts, k4.

**Row 2 (RS):** K5, \*sl1, k1, repeat from \* to the last 4 sts, k4.

**Row 3:** K5, \*p1, k1, repeat from \* to the last 4 sts, k4.

**Row 4:** K6, sl1, \*k1, sl1, repeat from \* to the last 6 sts, k6.

Knit 6 rows.

Cast off.

### MAKING UP

Sew the seams at the top and bottom, leaving a gap for the handle.

Sew three loops and three buttons across the handle gap.





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## FIRST AID POCKET



# NURSE PURSE

Keep first aid essentials in this cute emergency kit by **Jemima Schlee** – made from a couple of balls of string!



# FIRST AID PURSE



## MATERIALS

- Yarn
  - Yarn A:** 42 yards (39m) natural bakers' twine
  - Yarn B:** 5 yards (5m) red bakers' twine
- Needles
  - 3mm (UK 11, US 2/3)
- Accessories
  - 20cm x 38cm (8in x 15in) cream fabric for lining
  - 15cm (6in) glue-in purse frame
  - Fabric glue
  - Sewing machine
  - Sewing needles and pins
  - Tapestry needle
  - Measuring tape
  - Steam iron
  - Sharp scissors

## TENSION

9 sts and 13 rows over st st using 3mm needles to make a 5cm or 2in square. Tension is important for this project to ensure the knitted piece fits the purse frame

## FINISHED SIZE

15cm x 16.5cm (6in x 6½in)

- Turn to page 96 for a full list of abbreviations

**B**eing fabulous, creative knitters there's nothing more exciting than discovering a new yarn. But just imagine working with something that's not a traditional material. This gorgeous nurse purse by Jemima Schlee is created using bakers' twine. It gives the finished piece a robust feel which is perfect when you want to store sharp things like scissors and tweezers. Bakers' twine can be found easily at your nearest hardware store or online. It often comes in a range of really gorgeous colours, so once you're finished being practical you can create a whole wealth of items that will match your home decor. Once tried we think you'll love working with string!

## MAIN PIECE

Using yarn A, cast on 26 sts.

**Row 1 (RS):** Knit.

**Row 2 (WS):** Cast on 2 sts, p to end. 28 sts

**Row 3:** Cast on 2 sts, k to end. 30 sts

**Row 4:** Purl to end.

**Rows 5–10:** Work in stocking stitch.

**Rows 11–25:** Follow the chart on page 60, using B to work the motif and stranding the yarn not in use loosely across the back of the work.

**Rows 26–38:** Work in stocking stitch using A.

**Row 39:** Cast off 3 sts, knit to end. 27 sts

**Row 40:** Cast off 3 sts, purl to end. 24 sts

**Rows 41–46:** Work in stocking stitch.

**Row 47:** Cast on 3 sts, knit to end. 27 sts

**Row 48:** Cast on 3 sts, purl to end. 30 sts

**Rows 49–58:** Work in stocking stitch, using yarn A.

**Rows 59–73:** Follow the chart below using yarn B to work the motif and stranding the yarn not in use loosely across the back of

the work.

**Rows 74–80:** Work in stocking stitch.

**Row 81:** Cast off 3 sts, knit to end. 27 sts

**Row 82:** Cast off 3, purl to end. 24 sts

**Row 83:** Cast off loosely.

## BLOCKING

1 Neaten ends by threading them on a darning needle and feeding them through the back of a few stitches at the back of the work before trimming to 1cm (¾in).

2 Block the knitted piece and press it using a hot steam iron.

## MAKING UP

3 Fold work in half, right-sides facing, across a central fold line. Align and pin or tack the two straight side edges.

Machine stitch down the two sides close to the edge.

4 Close the box corners by flattening them, positioning the side seams exactly on the central fold line. Align and pin or tack the two short edges together. Close the two gaps by machine sewing. Finish off all the thread ends by hand with a darning needle.

## Making the lining

5 Cut two lining pieces from cream cotton using the template on page 60. Pin together carefully, aligning the raw edges

and sew along three sides between the dots marked on the template with a seam allowance of approximately 1cm (¾in). Reverse stitch at the beginning and end of the seam for extra strength.

6 Press the seams open – this is fiddly, so take care not to scorch your fingers. Working on one of the bottom corners, create the flat base by making box corners. Place your hand inside the lining and push

## SIMPLE STEPS KNIT STITCH

Knit stitch is where most knitters start. It's easy to learn, and garter stitch fabric (which is knitted every row) is lovely and squishy, although it is naturally shorter than stocking stitch (knit one row, purl one row and repeat). You'll find a tutorial for purl stitch on page 92.



**1** Insert your right needle diagonally, front to back into the first stitch on your left needle. Your needles should be roughly at right angles.



**2** Wrap the working yarn around the right needle clockwise and pull this yarn through to the front of the stitch with your right needle.



**3** Let the old stitch fall off the left-hand needle, keeping the new stitch on the right-hand needle. That's your first stitch done!



# FIRST AID PURSE

## JEMIMA SCHLEE

Craft designer  
Jemima lives in  
Brighton. Author of a  
trio of imaginative  
craft books, she loves  
to delve into the realm  
of the quirky make.



[jemimaschlee.co.uk](http://jemimaschlee.co.uk)  
[jemimaschlee.blogspot.co.uk](http://jemimaschlee.blogspot.co.uk)

the fabric out and away from the seam. Align the side seam exactly with the bottom seam and press flat so the corner forms a triangle. Sew across 2.5cm (1in) from the point of the corner and trim the seam to 6mm (¼in).

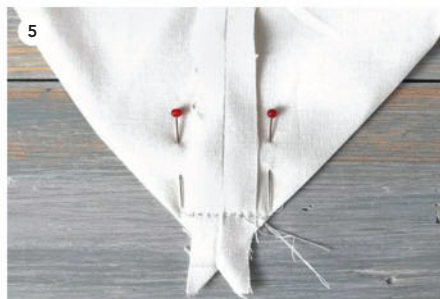
7 Fold the raw top edges of the lining over and tack all the way around.

### Assemble purse

Turn the purse outer right side out. With the lining still inside out, place it inside the purse outer. Align all the top edges and side seams, and pin or tack in position. Sew the lining to the top edge by hand, with small overstitching.

### Attach purse frame

8 Open the purse frame fully. Run a line of fabric glue along the inside of one half, beginning and ending ¾in (1cm) from the hinge at either side. Do the same along one side of the purse opening, beginning and ending ¾in (1cm) from each side seam. Insert the fabric into the frame, lining up the sides evenly before feeding in the centre. Use your fingers or a crochet hook to push the fabric in and make sure that the top of the outer and the lining are both hidden. Leave to dry fully before gluing the other side. »



This perfectly practical pattern is from the book *Take A Ball Of String*, by Jemima Schlee, published by GMC (RRP £12.99). Visit their website at [thegmcgroup.com](http://thegmcgroup.com)

Find us on Facebook.com/KnitToday

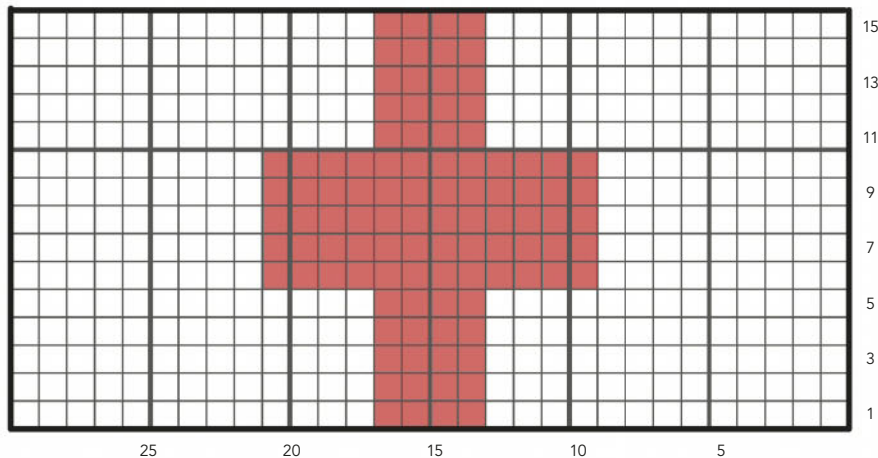




# FIRST AID PURSE



## PURSE CHART AND KEY



### KEY

- Yarn B (k on RS, p on WS)
- Yarn A (k on RS, p on WS)



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## GEO CARDI



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# GEO CARDI



## MATERIALS

- Yarn  
Rico Fashion Big Mohair  
Super Chunky in:  
**Yarn A** 11 x balls in Cream (shade 001)  
**Yarn B** 9 x balls in Black (shade 010)  
**Yarn C** 2 x balls in Orange (shade 015)  
**Yarn D** 1 ball in Saffron (shade 011)  
**Yarn E** 1 ball in Mint (shade 017)
- Needles & accessories  
9mm (UK 00, US 13)  
circular needle, at least 80cm long  
Coloured markers

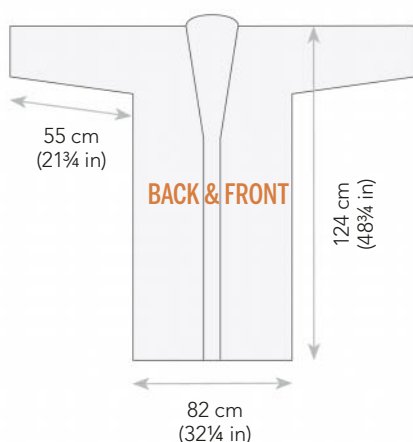
## YARN DETAIL

- Rico Fashion Big Mohair, loveknitting.com 0845 544 2196
- super chunky
- 40% acrylic, 30% mohair, 30% polyamide
- 50g/60m (65yds)
- Hand wash.
- £4.99

## TENSION

9 sts and 12 rows over st st using 9mm needles to make a 10cm or 4in square

- Find abbreviations on p96.



**G**o for geometrical wow factor when you make this stunning Rico cardigan using the intarsia colour method.

## PATTERN NOTE

When changing colours twist the new colour yarn with the old colour yarn to prevent a hole forming. When making black and white herringbone sections strand yarn not in use across the back of your work. For larger motifs use separate lengths of yarn.

## BACK

Using 9mm circular needle, yarn B and thumb method cast on 74 sts.

**Row 1 (RS):** K2, \*p1, k1, rep from \* to end. This row is called k1, p1 rib (with edge sts). Work in rib for a further nine rows, ending with a WS row.

**Next row:** Work first row of patt chart 1, reading chart from right to left on odd numbered rows, and from left to right on even numbered rows. Cont in patt from chart 1, using intarsia technique, until all chart rows are finished. Cast off.

## LEFT FRONT

Using 9mm circular needle, yarn B and thumb method cast on 37 sts.

**Row 1 (RS):** K1, \*p1, k1, rep from \* to end.

**Row 2 (WS):** K2, p1, k1, rep from \* to last 3 sts, p1, k2. These 2 rows form k1, p1 rib (with edge sts). Work eight more rows in rib. \*\*

**Next row:** Work first row of patt chart 2, reading chart from right to left on odd numbered rows, and from left to right on even numbered rows. Cont in patt from chart 2, using intarsia technique, casting off 8 sts at front of neck where indicated on row 132. Continue in patt from chart 2 until all chart rows are finished. Cast off.

## RIGHT FRONT

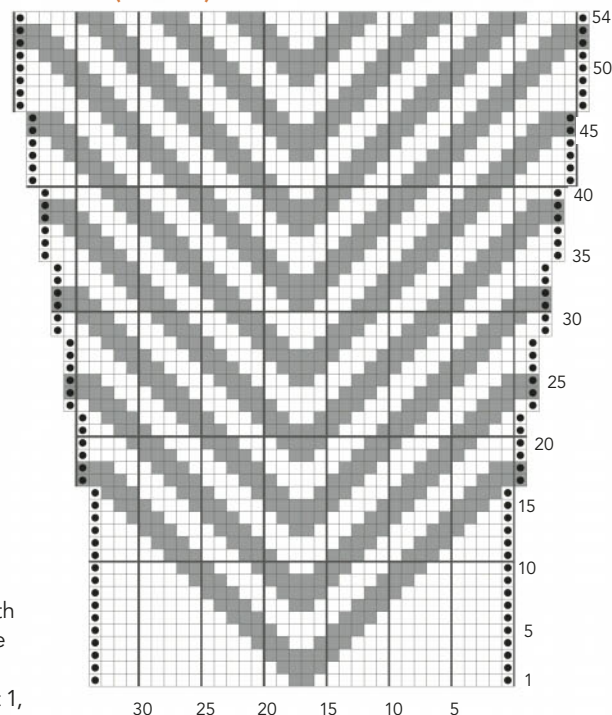
Work as for left front to \*\*.

**Next row:** Work first row of patt chart 3, reading chart from right to left on odd numbered rows, and from left to right on even numbered rows. Cont in patt from chart 3, using intarsia technique, casting off 8 sts at front of neck where indicated on row 133. Continue in patt from chart 3 until all chart rows are finished. Cast off.

## SLEEVES (BOTH ALIKE)

Using 9mm circular needle, yarn B and

CHART 4 (SLEEVE)



thumb method cast on 34 sts.

Work 10 rows in rib as given for Back.

**Next row:** Work first row of patt chart 4, reading chart from right to left on odd numbered rows, and from left to right on even numbered rows. Cont in patt from chart 4, using intarsia technique, increasing 1 st at each end of row 17, and every foll 6th row until there are 46 sts. Cont in patt from chart 4 until all chart rows are finished. Cast off. Join shoulder seams.

## COLLAR

With RS facing, using 9mm circular needle and yarn B, pick up and knit 12 sts evenly along right side of front of neck, 17 sts evenly along back of neck, 12 sts evenly along left side of front of neck (41 sts). Work in rib as given for left front until collar measures 20cm (8in), ending in a WS row. Cast off loosely in rib. Fold collar in half to inside and neatly sew cast-off edge in place over pick-up row on inside.

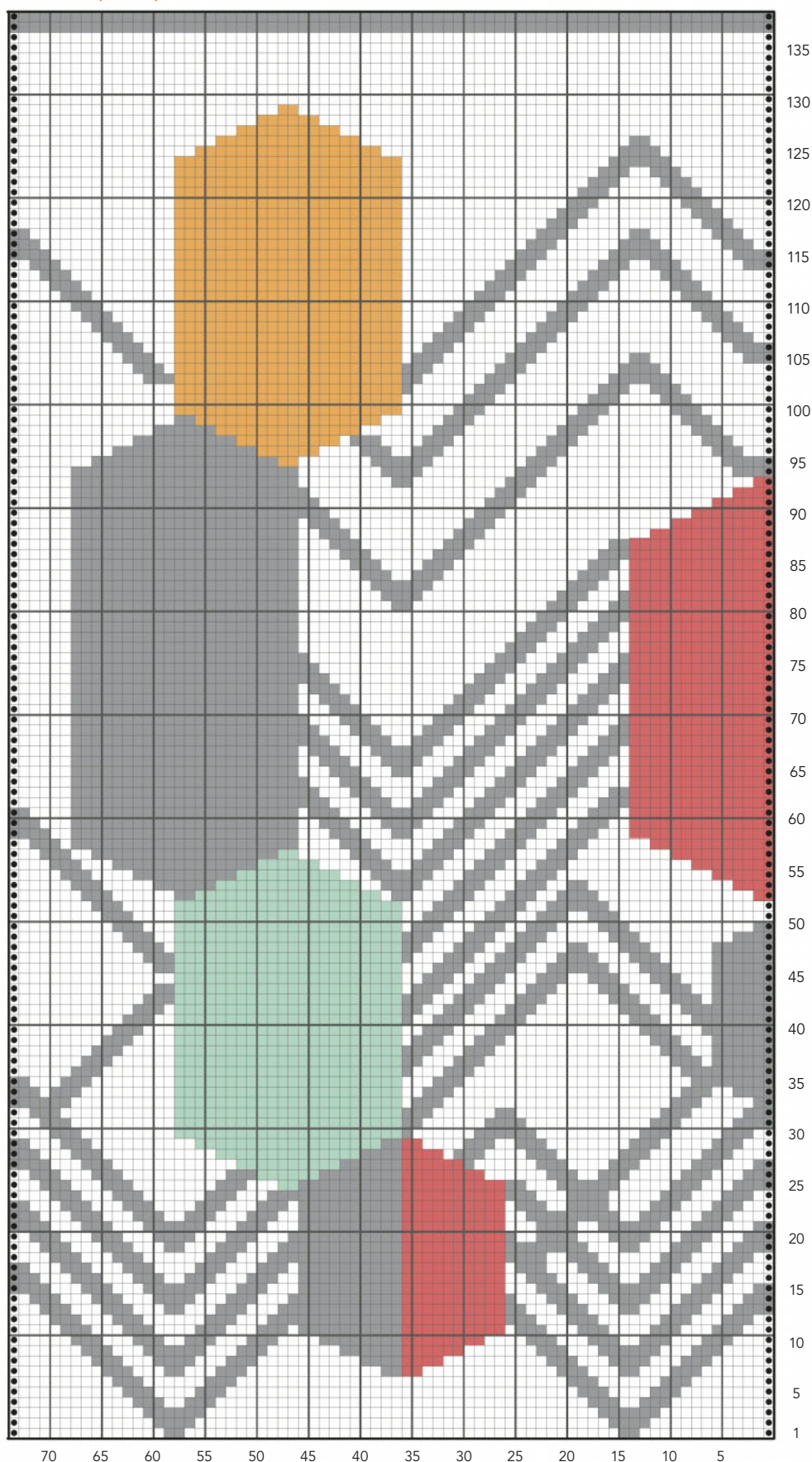
## MAKING UP

- 1 Mark 25.5cm (10in) down from shoulder seams to denote armholes.
- 2 Fold sleeves in half lengthways. Place sleeve top folds to shoulder seams, sew in position between markers.
- 3 Join side and sleeve seams.
- 4 Pin out coat to measurements given.
- 5 Cover with clean, damp tea towels and leave until dry.



# GEO CARDI

CHART 1 (BACK)



## KEY

- Cream  
(k on RS, p on WS)
- Orange  
(k on RS, p on WS)
- Mint  
(k on RS, p on WS)
- Black  
(k on RS, p on WS)
- Saffron  
(k on RS, p on WS)

The first stitch of every row should be knitted. »



# GEO CARDI

CHART 2 (FRONT LEFT)

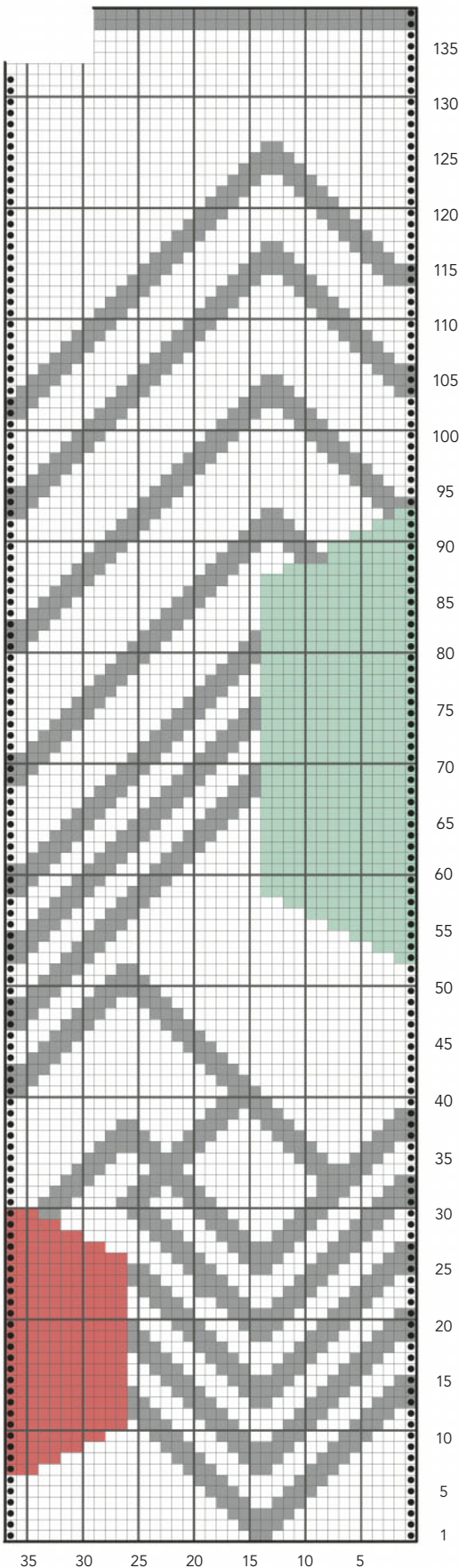
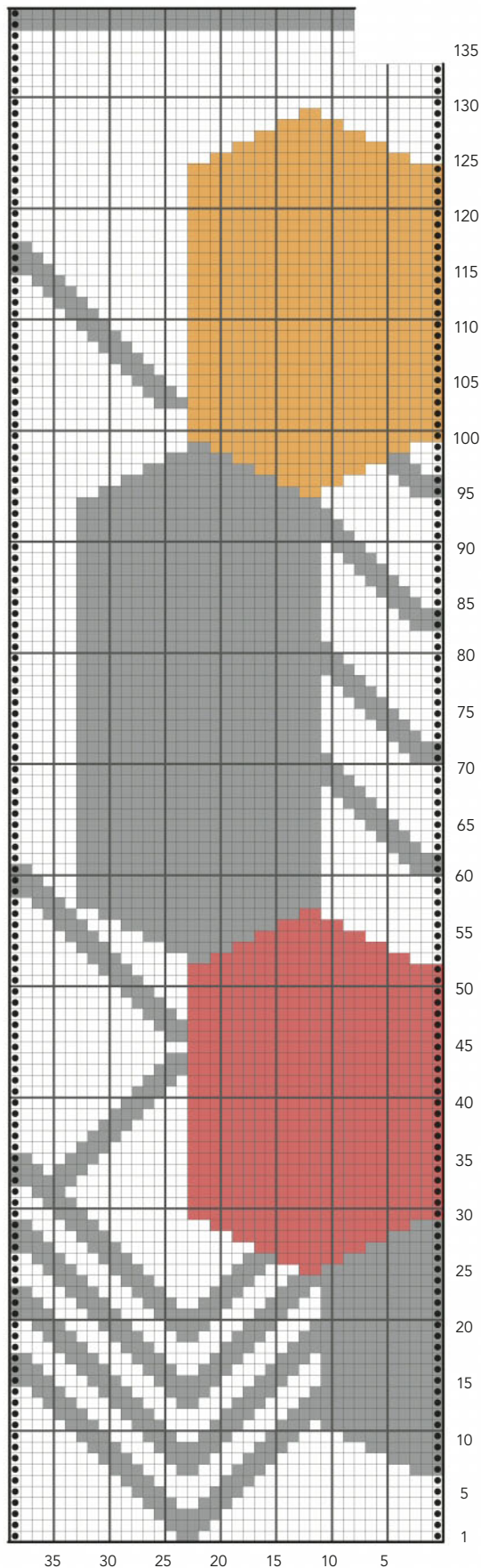


CHART 3 (FRONT RIGHT)



## KEY

- Cream  
(k on RS, p on WS)
- Orange  
(k on RS, p on WS)
- Mint  
(k on RS, p on WS)
- Black  
(k on RS, p on WS)
- Saffron  
(k on RS, p on WS)

The first stitch of every row should be knitted.



# NEEDLE GAUGES

We've got the measure of the best!



## 1 Whopper!

Think big, knit bigger! Sizes go up to a whopping 25mm, just £10.57 from Katrinkles on Etsy.com

## 2 Nice as pie

Looking cute as cherry pie, this circular gauge is cut from cherry veneered wood. Quince Pie, £5 from Quince Pie on Etsy.com

## 3 Namesake

Have your gauge customised! This one belongs to our Editor, Rosee. Custom Text, £1.46 from Pumora on Etsy.com

## 4 Sunny side up

Bring a ray of sunshine to your knitting. Hot Summer Sun Knitting Needle Gauge, £5.27 from Seven Yaks on Etsy.com

## 5 Humanoid

Made from recycled plastic, we love the detail of this retro-Seventies robot. Ropotti, £8.72 from Succaplokki on Etsy.com

## 6 Power to the people

Use manpower to measure your needles with these gingerbreadman-style shapes. People shapes start at £10.20 and keyring £5.44, from Makekrake on Etsy.com

## 7 Wise guy

Keep this owl pet in your handbag for easy access and portable knitting. Or use simply as a pretty charm on a knitting bag. Paavo keyring, £4.63 from Succaplokki on Etsy.com

## 8 A classic

Comforting, sturdy, and somehow reminds you of your gran. Measure Knitting Needles Gauge Acrylic, £1.33 from GloriaPatreSpinNKnit on Etsy.com

## 9 Fleece

Don't follow the flock and go unique with this sturdy, sheep-themed knitting needle gauge. Sheep, £1.26 from GloriaPatreSpinNKnit on Etsy.com



# KNOW YOUR YARN

Confused by worsted, chunky or aran? We help unravel those yarn mysteries!



**W**alk into your local yarn store and you'll usually find a wall jam-packed with a rainbow of yarns. Tucked into cubby holes will be donuts of tweed-flecked wool, skeins of hand dyed variegates and ombre effects, giant balls of workhorse acrylic mixes and softly wound hanks of barely spun roving.

There is so much amazing, beautiful and tempting yarn out there that when it comes to

buying, it's easy to think with your heart, not your head. And if you shop for yarn impulsively it's easy to end up with a bundle of single balls languishing in your stash and no idea what to do with them.

Use our essential guide to work out just what you've got, what you might want to buy in future and what you can use it for. Happy knitting!





## THING TO KNOW TENSION

Tension is given to 10cm or 4in square in stocking stitch. When making a tension square don't cast on the number of stitches you need to make a 10cm square. It's impossible to accurately measure a swatch to the edges as they tend to curl. Instead, cast on at least four more stitches than the given stitch tension, and knit at least four more rows than the given row tension. When you've finished knitting the swatch, cast off loosely and then lay it flat and measure the

central section. You can mark out the stitches and rows with pins so that you know where to measure from and to. If you have too many stitches/rows per 10cm then go up a needle size. If you have too few then go down a needle size. Don't try to adjust your tension by knitting tighter or looser!



## LACEWEIGHT

**ALSO KNOWN AS:** Superfine, thread  
**NEEDLE SIZE:** 2.25mm to 3.25mm  
**TYPICAL TENSION:** 34 sts and 42 rows  
**AVERAGE METRES PER 50G:** 400m or more  
**ONE BALL PROJECTS (100G):** Shawls, scarves, wraps, simple summer t-shirts



**The low down:** Usually comes in hanks of 50g or 100g. This super fine yarn should be scary for beginners, but many of us gravitate to fluffy mohair mixes like Rowan Kidsilk Haze, or Debbie Bliss Angel as they're just so pretty! Knitting with laceweight

is slow if you're making something complicated, but it's also possible to use it for featherweight tops on bigger needles, taking the sting out of the work. Alternatively, hold laceweight together with other thicker yarns to create subtle rainbow colour effects.

## 3PLY

**ALSO KNOWN AS:** Baby  
**NEEDLE SIZE:** 2.25mm to 3.25mm  
**TYPICAL TENSION:** 32 sts and 40 rows  
**AVERAGE METRES PER 50G:** 300m  
**ONE BALL PROJECTS (100G):** Baby blanket, layette (hat, jumper and booties for baby)



**The low down:** Traditionally used for making garments and baby things, 3ply yarn has fallen out of fashion and so there's less variety out there both in yarns and patterns. If you have a ball in your stash try knitting it on larger needles – you'll probably find it works

fine in most patterns for the slightly thicker) 4ply yarn. Alternatively, seek out a vintage style pattern from a designer like Susan Crawford ([suscrawfordshop.com](http://suscrawfordshop.com)) for an authentic knitting experience. We love the Sugar and Spice dressing gown.

## 4PLY

**ALSO KNOWN AS:** Sock, fingering  
**NEEDLE SIZE:** 2.25mm to 3.25mm  
**TYPICAL TENSION:** 28 sts and 36 rows  
**AVERAGE METRES PER 50G:** 200m  
**ONE BALL PROJECTS (100G):** Socks, gloves, skinny scarves



**The low down:** If you stumble across an old knitting pattern on eBay chances are it'll have been designed for 4ply yarn. In the 1940s it was normal to knit up complex garments on relatively tiny needles. Now 4ply yarn is enjoying a resurgence, thanks to the

trend for knitting socks. If you've never worn handknit socks you'll probably wonder what all the fuss is about, but trust us, they really are special! There's acres of sock patterns on Ravelry.com to choose from but Jennifer Lee's cosy ribbed cuff socks caught our eye.

## SPORT

**ALSO KNOWN AS:** Baby, light DK  
**NEEDLE SIZE:** 3.75mm  
**TYPICAL TENSION:** 24 sts and 32 rows  
**AVERAGE METRES PER 50G:** 170m  
**ONE BALL PROJECTS (50G):** Mittens, skinny scarves, cowls



**The low down:** Traditional wools used for fisherman's gansey jumpers, such as Wendy Guernsey 5ply, are some of the best known yarns of this group. They are perfect for projects like bags, which need to be both robust and relatively lightweight.

Sport weight yarns can be used for DK patterns, but have a lighter result if knitted to standard DK tension, so swatch first. Light DK yarns such as Rowan Felted Tweed DK have a lot of yardage and are suitable for sport weight patterns.

## DOUBLE KNIT

**ALSO KNOWN AS:** Light worsted  
**NEEDLE SIZE:** 4mm  
**TYPICAL TENSION:** 22 sts and 30 rows  
**AVERAGE METRES PER 50G:** 120m  
**ONE BALL PROJECTS (50G):** Hats, wristwarmers



**The low down:** Usually the most requested weight of yarn, DK is great for light garments and accessories. Look at the pattern archives of big brands like King Cole and you'll find huge numbers of projects designed for DK. However, if you're new

to knitting, a long sleeved garment in DK weight can feel like a bit of a slog, so save it for summer t shirts or short sleeved tops. One ball of DK yarn is just enough for a pair of wristwarmers, a beanie, simple knitted jewellery or a handy coin purse. »



## WORSTED

**ALSO KNOWN AS:** Light aran, heavy DK

**NEEDLE SIZE:** 4.5mm

**AVERAGE TENSION:** 20 sts and 28 rows

**TYPICAL METRES PER 50G:** 100m

**ONE BALL PROJECTS (100G):** Hats, small bags and purses



**The low down:** Worsted weight yarn is quite new to the UK, falling between DK and aran. Cascade 220 is probably the best known, comes in a huge range of colours and can be knitted on anything from 3.25mm to 5mm needles, depending on how drapey

you want your fabric. Just to confuse matters, be aware there is a type of spinning technique which is also called worsted. It's a process that leaves the yarn smooth and even, so you may see yarns in other weights described as worsted. If in doubt, ask!

## CHUNKY

**ALSO KNOWN AS:** Bulky

**NEEDLE SIZE:** 6mm to 8mm

**TYPICAL TENSION:** 14 sts and 19 rows

**AVERAGE METRES PER 50G:** 70m

**ONE BALL PROJECTS (100G):** Scarves, legwarmers, traditional mittens



**The low down:** If you want to knit a cosy garment to see you through the winter then chunky yarn is absolutely perfect. There is a wide range of patterns available and, thanks to the larger needles, your sweater, scarf or shawl will grow rapidly before your

very eyes as chunky yarn knits up so quickly. It's also thick enough for mistakes to be easily spotted. As it makes for a fairly substantial fabric that washes well, it's also a brilliant choice for things like cushions, chair covers and throws that need to be sturdy!

## JUMBO

**ALSO KNOWN AS:** Roving

**NEEDLE SIZE:** 12.75mm, 15mm, 25mm

**TYPICAL TENSION:** 6 sts and 8 rows or less

**AVERAGE METRES PER 50G:** 20m or less

**ONE BALL PROJECTS (250G+):** Quick knit blankets, cushion covers

**The low down:** If there's one trend in knitting that's really noticeable it's the emergence of bigger and bigger yarns. Brands like Manoush and Loopy Mango have specialised in bringing out giant yarns that knit up super quickly. This yarn can be very heavy so keep it

for statement accessories and dramatic modern home knits. If it's loosely spun it'll shed fibres so keep a towel on your lap when knitting with it. If you fancy giving arm knitting a go this is the yarn for you! Look online for simple-to-follow instructions.

LARGER THAN  
LIFE AND TWICE  
THE FUN!



## ARAN

**ALSO KNOWN AS:** Heavy worsted, afghan

**NEEDLE SIZE:** 4.5mm or 5mm

**TYPICAL TENSION:** 18 sts and 24 rows

**AVERAGE METRES PER 50G:** 95m

**ONE BALL PROJECTS (100G):** Felted boxes, fingerless mitts, cowls, bobble hats



**The low down:** Thanks to the thicker fabric it makes, cosy aran yarn is not an obvious choice for summer but it is perfect for garments from autumn through to spring. It's also a lovely yarn for blankets as it's that bit heavier but still creates a soft, fluid shape. If

you're after a plant fibre yarn of this weight, the machine washable Sirdar Cotton Rich Aran is a good choice. Aran is also the name of a style of knitting with distinctive intertwining cables normally associated with off-white, Irish fishermen's jumpers.

## SUPER CHUNKY

**ALSO KNOWN AS:** Super bulky, roving

**NEEDLE SIZE:** 9mm or 10mm

**TYPICAL TENSION:** 10 sts and 12 rows

**AVERAGE METRES PER 50G:** 40m

**ONE BALL PROJECTS (100G):** Hats, cowls, peephole scarves



**The low down:** Beginners often find themselves irresistibly drawn to super chunky yarn. There's something about a big squishy ball of softly spun that pulls them in and won't let go! Rico has some great super chunky yarns to choose from, or you

could try Rowan's classic Big Wool, which comes in lovely, vivid colours. You may find working with large needles awkward, and it can be hard on your hands, so take regular breaks and consider using circular needles to take the strain off your arms.



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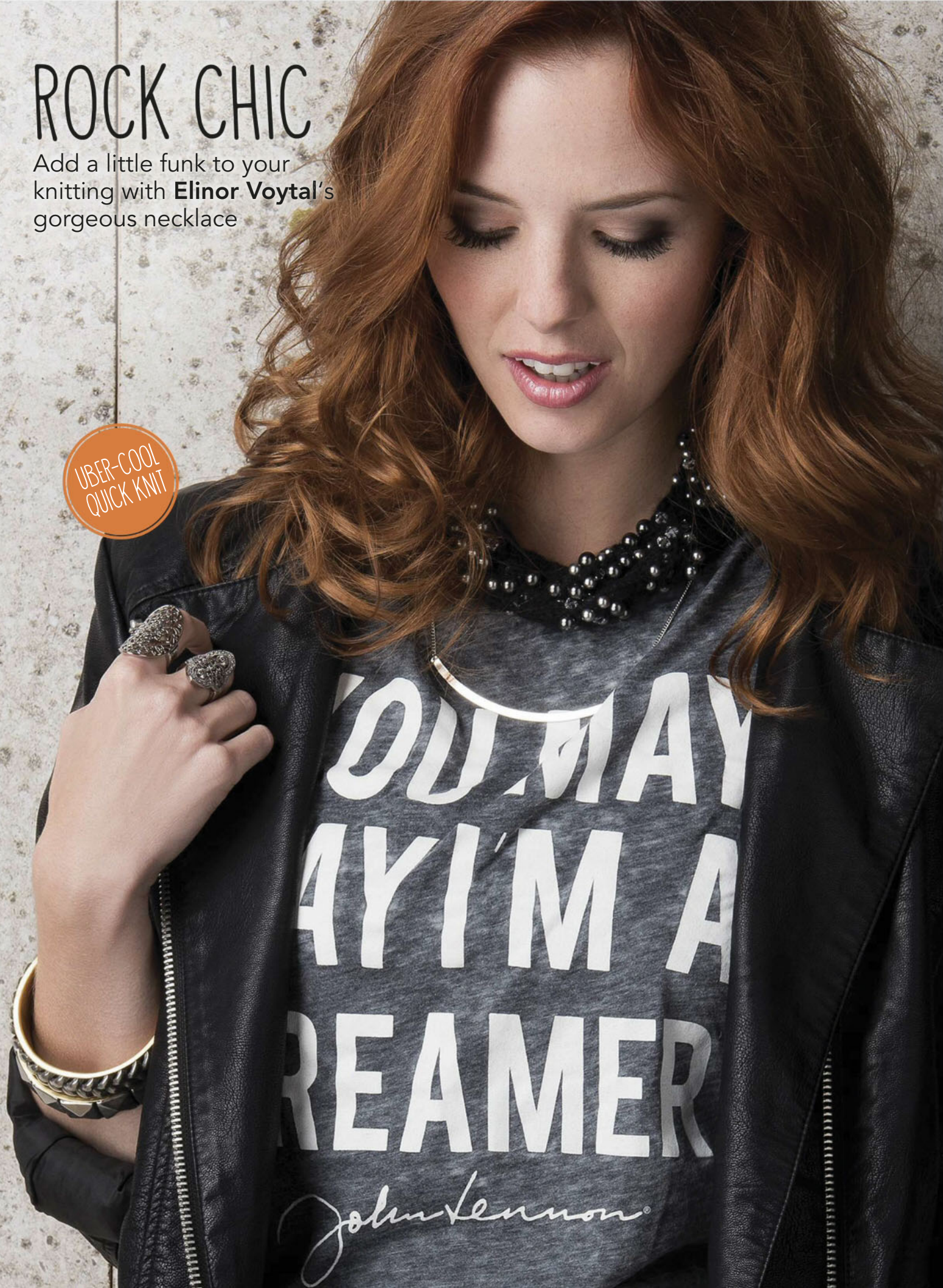
Lines open Mon-Fri 8am-8pm and Saturday 9am-1pm



# ROCK CHIC

Add a little funk to your knitting with **Elinor Voytal's** gorgeous necklace

UBER-COOL  
QUICK KNT





# SWAROVSKI NECKLACE



## MATERIALS

- Yarn
  - 1 x 25g balls of Rowan Finest in Spell (shade 072)
- Needles
  - 3.25mm (UK 10, US 3) needles
  - 3.5mm (UK 10/9, US 4) needles
  - 2 x 3.5mm (UK 10/9, US 4) double-pointed needles
- Accessories
  - 3 x packs of Swarovski Silver Selection (art no 9825101-00021)

## YARN DETAIL

- Rowan Finest
  - knitrowan.com, £6.50
  - 01484 681881
- 4ply weight
- 50% merino wool extra fine, 30% alpaca, 20% cashmere
- 25g/87m (95yds)
- Hand wash at 30°C

## TENSION

32 sts and 33 rows over pattern using 3.25mm needles to make a 10cm or 4in square

## SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

- work 5tog** sl1, k1, pss0, k3tog, pass the st resulting from sl1-k1-pss0 over the st resulting from k3tog
- k3tog tbl** knit three stitches together through the back of the loop
- kfb** knit into front and back of the next st
- kfbf** knit into the front, back and front of next st
- cluster 3** slip next 3 sts onto right needle bring yarn to front (RS) of work, slip same 3 sts back to left needle, take yarn to back (WS) of work, k3
- p2sso** pass two slipped stitches over

## FINISHED SIZE

- Completed necklace is approx 94cm (37in) long, including ties. The beaded section is 36cm (14¼in) long.

- Turn to page 96 for a full list of abbreviations



**W**e think this gorgeous Elinor Voytal necklace is a real treat. Decorated with carefully placed Swarovski beads, which are sewn in after the knitting has been completed, it's a truly dreamy knit. Once made it will become a treasured make for you or a wonderful gift for a loved one.

## CENTRE SECTION

Using 3.25mm needles cast on 22 sts.

**Row 1 (RS):** (K2tog, yfwd) 3 times, k3, (yfwd, sl1, k1, pss0) twice, yfwd, sl1, k2tog, pss0, yfwd, (k2tog, yfwd) twice, k2.

**Row 2 and every alt row (WS):** Purl.

**Row 3:** K1, yfwd, k2tog, yfwd, sl2, k1, p2sso, yfwd, k3, kfb, yfwd, sl1, k1, pss0, yfwd, work 5tog, yfwd, k2tog, yfwd, kfb, k2.

**Row 5:** K1, yfwd, sl2, k1, p2sso, yfwd, sl1, k1, pss0, yfwd, k5, kfb, yfwd, work 5tog, yfwd, kfb, k4.

**Row 7:** K1, yfwd, k2tog, yfwd, sl2, k1, p2sso, yfwd, k7, cluster 3, k6.

**Row 9:** K1, yfwd, sl2, k1, p2sso, yfwd, sl1, k1, pss0, yfwd, k5, k3tog, yfwd, kfbf, yfwd, k3tog tbl, k4.

**Row 11:** K1, yfwd, k2tog, yfwd, sl2, k1, p2sso, yfwd, k3, k3tog, yfwd, k2tog, yfwd, kfbf, yfwd, sl1, k1, pss0, yfwd, k3tog tbl, k2.

**Row 13:** K1, yfwd, sl2, k1, p2sso, yfwd, sl1, k1, pss0, yfwd, k2, (k2tog, yfwd) 3 times, k1, (yfwd, sl1, k1, pss0) 3 times, k1.

**Row 15:** K2, (yfwd, sl1, k1, pss0) twice, yfwd, sl1, k2tog, pss0, yfwd, (k2tog, yfwd) twice, k3, (yfwd, sl1, k1, pss0) 3 times.

**Row 17:** K2, kfb, yfwd, sl1, k1, pss0, yfwd, work 5 tog, yfwd, k2tog, yfwd, kfb, k3, yfwd, sl2, k1, p2sso, yfwd, sl1, k1, pss0, yfwd, k1.

**Row 19:** K4, kfb, yfwd, work 5 tog, yfwd, kfb, k5, yfwd, k2tog, yfwd, sl2, k1, p2sso, yfwd, k1.

**Row 21:** K6, cluster 3, k7, yfwd, sl2, k1, p2sso, yfwd, sl1, k1, pss0, yfwd, k1.

**Row 23:** K4, k3tog, yfwd, kfbf, yfwd, k3tog tbl, k5, yfwd, k2tog, yfwd, sl2, k1, p2sso, yfwd, k1.

**Row 25:** K2, k3tog, yfwd, k2tog, yfwd, kfbf, yfwd, sl1, k1, pss0, yfwd, k3tog tbl, k3, yfwd, sl2, k1, p2sso, yfwd, sl1, k1, pss0, yfwd, k1.

**Row 27:** K1, (k2tog, yfwd) 3 times, k1, (yfwd, sl1, k1, pss0) 3 times, k2, yfwd, k2tog, yfwd, sl2, k1, p2sso, yfwd, k1.

**Row 28:** Purl.

Rep last 28 rows 3 times more. Cast off.

After pressing place beads into lace holes and sew them into position. »

## SIMPLE STEPS SLIPPING A STITCH PURLWISE & KNITWISE

Sometimes you'll be asked to slip stitches from one needle to the other either purlwise or knitwise. This could be as a stand alone instruction or part of a cluster of stitches that create a certain pattern. It's important that you follow the instruction accurately. If you're asked to just slip the stitch (sl1) always do so purlwise.



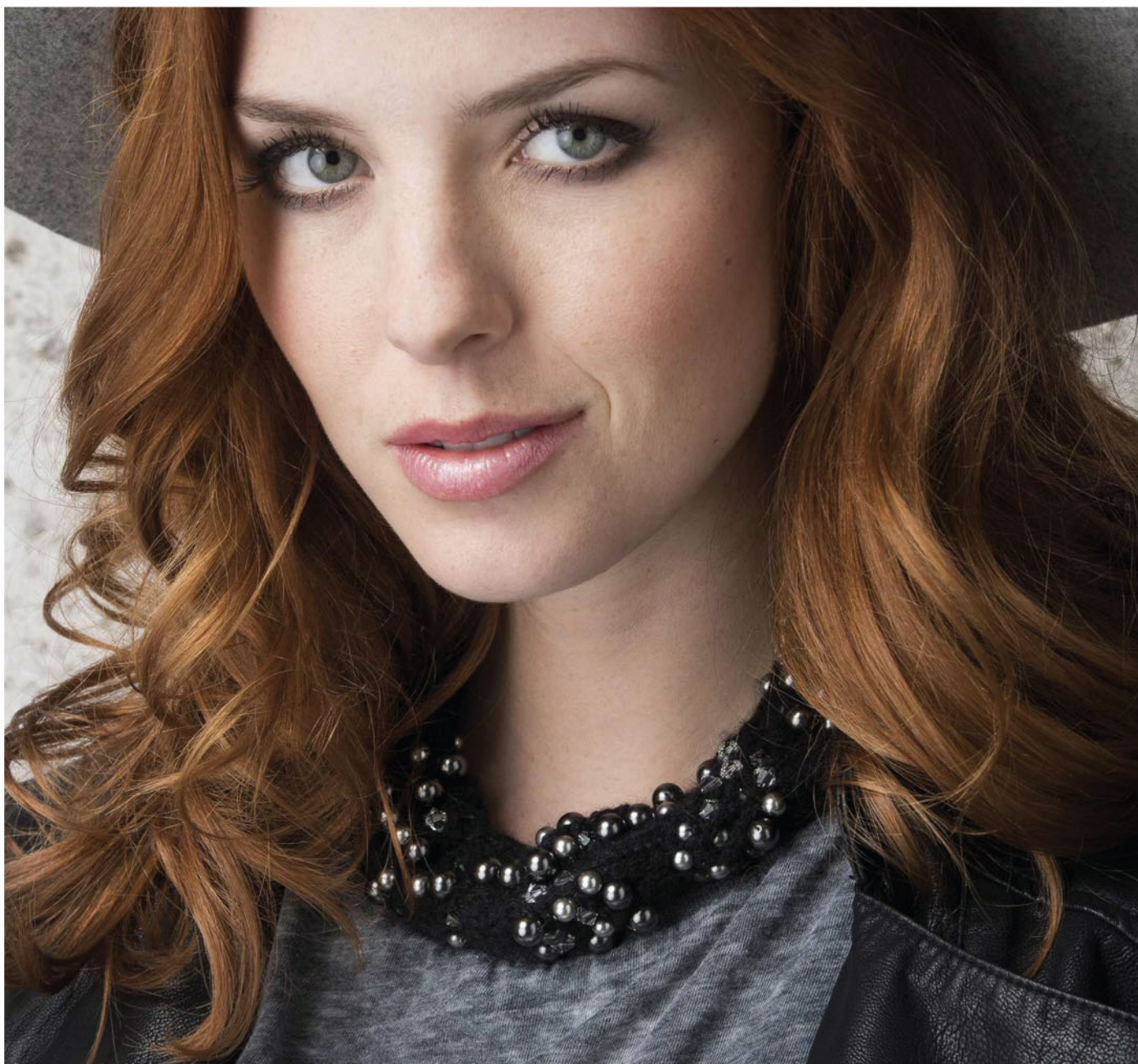
**1** To slip a stitch knitwise, insert your right needle into it from front to back as if to knit it and let it fall off the left-hand needle. This twists the stitch, and tightens it up.



**2** To slip a stitch purlwise, insert right needle into it from back to front, as if to purl, let it fall off left needle. This moves it to right needle. Untwisted so it stays loose.



## SWAROVSKI NECKLACE



### TIES (BOTH ALIKE)

Using 3.5mm needles cast on 16 sts.

Beg with a knit row, work in st st, dec 1 st at each end of 3rd and every foll alt row until 6 sts rem.

Slip rem 6 sts onto 3.5mm double-pointed needles and cont as folls:

**Row 1 (RS):** K6, \*without turning slip these 6 sts to opposite end of needle and bring yarn to opposite end of work pulling it quite tightly across WS of work, knit these 6 sts again, rep from \* until tie meas 33cm (13in) from cast-on edge. Cast off.


### MAKING UP

1 Press the knitted necklace carefully making sure you check with the information on the ball band.

2 Sew beads on randomly.

3 Attach the cast on edge of one tie to the cast-on end of the centre section making sure that the WS of the centre section is against RS of the tie.

4 Repeat for the other tie at the cast-off edge of the centre section.


5 Fold the centre section lengthways and join the row-end edges to form a tube. 

### ELINOR VOYTAL

Elinor graduated from college with a first class degree in knitted textiles. She creates stunning knitted jewellery in Yorkshire.



 [elinorvoytal.com](http://elinorvoytal.com)

 [@elinorvoytal](https://twitter.com/elinorvoytal)



## WINTER HOLIDAY COLLECTION



# IRRESISTIBLY COSY!

Stay happy and beat the winter blues with  
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# STRIPE HYPE

Do cosy and cool all in one  
with **Noro's** pocket scarf

QUICK  
& EASY





# POCKET SCARF



## MATERIALS

- Yarn  
7 x 50g balls of Noro Kureyon in shade 345
- Needles  
5mm (UK 6, US 8)

## YARN DETAIL

- Noro Kureyon  
designeryarns.uk.com  
01535 664222
- Aran weight
- 100% wool
- 50g/100m (109yds)
- Hand wash
- £6.95

## TENSION

15 sts and 23 rows over st st using 5mm needles to make a 10cm or 4in square

- Turn to page 96 for a full list of abbreviations

The best thing about self-striping yarns is they make it look like you've spent ages on a project, but actually the colour changes take place with no effort at all on your part... So if you haven't moved on to stripes yet, or you just want a simple project you can work on while still having a chat or watching TV, then this project is for you. Our gorgeous Noro scarf, created with beautiful, soft 100% wool yarn is a real investment piece and one you'll keep for years to come. Simply cast on and knit yourself into stripy heaven!

## SCARF

Using 5mm needles cast on 48 sts.

**Row 1 (RS):** K1, sl1 purlwise, k1, (k1, p1) twice, k34, (p1, k1) twice, k1, sl1 purlwise, k1.

**Row 2 (WS):** Sl1 purlwise, k1, sl1 purlwise, (p1, k1) twice, p34, (k1, p1) twice, sl1 purlwise, k1, sl1 purlwise.

These 2 rows form patt and are repeated throughout until work measures 180cm (71in), ending with a WS row. Cast off in patt.

## Pocket (make 2)

Using 5mm needles, cast on 46 sts. Work in patt as follows:

**Row 1 (RS):** K1, (k1, p1) twice, k38, (p1, k1) twice, k1.

**Row 2 (WS):** P1, (p1, k1) twice, p38, (k1, p1), twice, p1.

Keeping patt correct until pocket measures 16cm (6¼in), dec 1 st at each end of last row, ending with a WS row. 46 sts



Take time to add your pockets with care, a professional finish will make all the difference

Beg with row 1 of rib, work in rib a further 6cm (2¼in), ending with a RS row. Cast off in rib.

## MAKING UP

1 Place the pocket RS up over the end of the scarf (RS up), letting the rib section hang below the scarf's cast-off edge.

2 Working from inside the pocket, slip stitch the sides of the pocket onto the sides of the scarf, then slip stitch the 1st row above the pocket's rib to the cast-on or cast-off edge of the scarf depending on which end of the scarf you're doing.

## SIMPLE STEPS KNITTED CAST ON



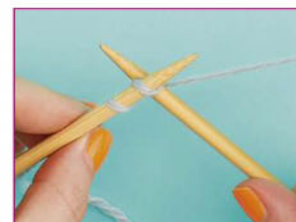
**1** Make a slip knot. Insert your right needle into the front of the stitch.



**2** Wrap the yarn around the point of the right needle and pull this loop through the stitch and to the front.



**3** Twist the loop and place it back onto the tip of the left needle. You have now cast on a new stitch.



**4** Repeat steps 2 and 3 until you have cast on the amount of stitches required for your knitting pattern.



# HEAD START

Treat your head to a little luxury  
with **Rosee Woodland's** alpaca beanie

QUICK  
& EASY



# ALPACA BEANIE



## MATERIALS

- Yarn  
1 x 50g ball each of  
Sublime Superfine Alpaca  
DK in Twill (shade 431) and  
Soft Grey (shade 433)
- Needles  
3.25mm (UK 10, US 3) and  
3.75mm (UK 9, US 5)  
knitting needles  
Tapestry needle
- Accessories  
Small pom-pom maker

## YARN DETAIL

- Sublime Superfine  
Alpaca DK  
sublimeyarns.com  
01924 369 666
- DK weight
- 100% alpaca
- 50g/120m (131yds)
- Hand wash. Do not iron.  
Do not tumble dry
- £4.98

## TENSION

22 sts and 30 rows over st st  
using 3.75mm needles to  
make a 10cm or 4in square.

## FINISHED SIZE

49cm (19½in) circumference,  
20.5cm (8¼in) depth to start  
of shaping. To fit 50-58cm  
(19¾-22¾in) head. Knitted to  
a smaller circumference so  
that they cling to the head.

## SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

- sl2, k1, pss0** Slip 2 stitches  
as if to knit  
tog, knit 1,  
pass the two  
slipped  
stitches over  
the stitch  
you've just  
knitted

- Turn to page 96 for a full  
list of abbreviations

**T**his delicate beanie hat is  
luxuriously soft and incredibly  
feminine thanks to the rich alpaca  
content. It'll match almost everything in  
your wardrobe and basically be your best  
friend during the chilly winter months.  
With stripes never going out of fashion,  
they're brilliant for using up random balls  
from your stash too. Once knitted, we're  
convinced you'll be hooked on making  
hats – we certainly are!

## PATTERN NOTE

When changing the stripe colours, break  
the yarn each time. Weave in all ends  
once the shaping is complete, and  
before sewing the side seam.

## HAT

Using 3.25mm needles and Soft Grey cast  
on 110 sts using the long tail method (p91).

**Set up row (WS):** K2 (p2, k2) to end.

**Row 1 (RS):** P2 (k2, p2) to end.

**Row 2 (WS):** K2 (p2, k2) to end.

Rep the last two rows a total of eight times.  
Rep row 1 once more.

**Row 18 (WS):** Purl.

Change to 3.75mm needles and Twill.

**Row 19 (RS):** Knit.

**Row 20 (WS):** Purl.

Rep the last 2 rows once more.

Change to Soft Grey.

**Row 23 (RS):** Knit.

**Row 24 (WS):** Purl.

Rep the last 2 rows once more.

Change to Twill.

Rep the last eight rows a total of five times.

Change to Twill.

**Row 59 (RS):** Knit.

**Row 60 (WS):** Purl.

Rep the last two rows once more.

Your hat should now measure 20cm (8in)  
in length.

Change to Soft Grey.

Note: You will now continue only in Soft  
Grey.

**Row 63 (RS):** Knit.

**Row 64 (WS):** Purl.

**Shape top of hat**

**Row 65 (RS):** K2tog, k4 (sl2, k1, p2sso, k9) 8  
times, sl2, k1, p2sso, k5. 91 sts



We've made our pom-pom in one shade but  
you could have fun mixing the yarns together

**Row 66 (and all WS rows):** Purl.

**Row 67:** K4 (sl2, k1, p2sso, k7) 8 times, sl2,  
k1, p2sso, k4. 73 sts

**Row 69:** K3 (sl2, k1, p2sso, k5) 8 times, sl2,  
k1, p2sso, k3. 55 sts

**Row 71:** K2 (sl2, k1, p2sso, k3) 8 times, sl2,  
k1, p2sso, k2. 37 sts

**Row 73:** K1 (sl2, k1, p2sso, k1) 8 times, sl2,  
k1, p2sso, k1. 19 sts

Break yarn, carry through remaining sts  
and fasten off.

## MAKING UP

1 Weave in your ends neatly, ensuring that  
you weave in each colour to its own stripe  
section for a good finish.

2 Using Soft Grey sew the back seam using  
mattress stitch, matching stripes carefully  
as you work along the seam.

3 If desired, make a small pom-pom using  
remaining Soft Grey yarn and stitch  
securely to the top of the hat.





# LOOP SCOOP

Wind **Debbie Bliss**'s infinity scarf around your neck or leave it long, loose and laid back

PERFECT FOR  
NEWBIES







## MATERIALS

- Yarn  
1 x 100g balls of Debbie Bliss Roma Weave each in  
**A** Mauve (shade 03) and  
**B** Heather (shade 04)
- Needles  
12mm (US 17)

## YARN DETAIL

- Debbie Bliss Roma Weave  
debbieblissonline.com
- Super chunky weight
- 70% wool, 30% alpaca
- 100g/80m (87yds)
- Handwash only
- £8.95

## TENSION

9 sts and 18 rows over g st  
using 12mm needles to make  
a 10cm or 4in square

## FINISHED SIZE

16cm x 158cm (6¼in x 62¼in)

- Turn to page 96 for a full  
list of abbreviations

**W**e can't get enough of bold, geometric knits at the moment and the slanting blocks of this two-tone cowl when it's left loose are a subtle nod to the trend. It's worked in super-chunky garter stitch making it an impressive quick-knit that'll tempt all your friends. Wind it around twice, and it's the neckwarmer of your dreams – soft, snuggly and luxurious. You'll wonder what you ever did without this sweet little knit!

## COWL


Using 12mm needles and **A**, cast on 18 sts.

**Row 1 (RS):** K to end.

**Row 2 (WS):** K1, skp, k to last st, m1, k1.

These 2 rows form the patt and are repeated.

Cont in patt to the end of the ball, change to **B** and cont in patt to the end of the ball, making sure you leave enough yarn to work the cast off row.

Cast off. Sew cast off edge to cast on edge. 





Try Debbie's Roma Weave yarn in a cool blue and grey, or warm yellow and orange combo



## DEBBIE BLISS

Debbie is a hugely successful UK knit designer with a large following. Her designs are often classic and beautifully shaped.



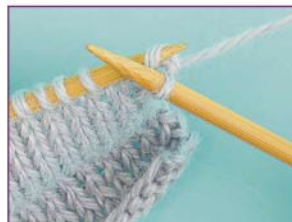
 [debbieblissonline.com](http://debbieblissonline.com)  
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## SIMPLE STEPS SIMPLE CAST OFF

The simple cast off creates a firm, hard-wearing edge but it can become quite tight and pull in at the edges of your work. If you find this happening make sure you aren't tightening your yarn after dropping off your stitch (step 2). If you are still finding it's too tight, try going up a needle size or two, by using a larger needle in your right-hand to create bigger stitches to cast off with.



**1** Knit two sts. Now insert the tip of your left-hand needle into the first stitch you knitted on your right-hand needle, from left then right, as in the above picture.



**2** Continuing to use left-hand needle tip, lift first stitch up and over the second stitch you knitted, drop it off the right needle first, then off the left-hand needle.



**3** Knit a stitch so that you have two stitches on your right needle and repeat the cast off as before until your last stitch. Break your yarn, thread it through the final stitch and pull taut.





# OH-SO FLUFFY!

There's no better time than winter to indulge in soft, squishy yarns!

## HEXAGON PATTERN

Cast on 6 stitches using the thumb / long tail method.

**Row 1 (WS):** Purl

**Row 2 (RS):** Kfb, k3, kfb, k1. 8 sts

**Row 3 and all WS rows:** As row 1.

**Row 4:** Kfb, k5, kfb, k1. 10 sts

**Row 6:** Kfb, k7, kfb, k1. 12 sts

**Row 8:** Kfb, k9, kfb, k1. 14 sts

**Row 10:** Ssk, k10, k2tog. 12 sts

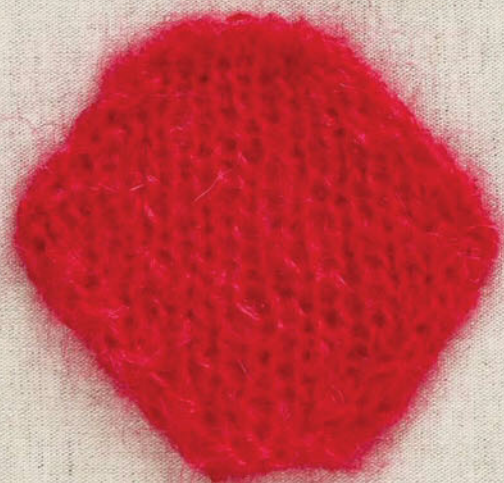
**Row 12:** Ssk, k8, k2tog. 10 sts

**Row 14:** Ssk, k6, k2tog. 8 sts

**Row 16:** Ssk, k4, k2tog. 6 sts

Cast off knitwise on WS.

Weave in ends and block gently into a hexagon shape.



A STACK OF HEXIES  
WOULD MAKE A GREAT  
CUSHION OR BLANKET!





## WENDY AIR

**CONTENT** 70% mohair, 30% nylon  
**BALL** 25g/200m (218yds)  
**NEEDLE** 3.25mm (UK 10, US 3)  
**TENSION** 18 sts and 23 rows to 10cm or 4in square  
**RRP** £5.85



Wendy have called their candyfloss-light yarn Air and rightly so as it's one of the softest, featherlight yarns around! Made up of 70% mohair, it has a delicious, luxury feel which creates a floaty fabric, perfect for all

those dreamy gossamer shawls you've been dying to knit. Ideally worked on 3.25mm needles, Wendy Air comes in 16 scrummy colours to suit everyone's colour preference.  
**tbramsden.co.uk**  
**01943 872 264**

## SIRDAR SYLVAN

**CONTENT** 90% acrylic, 10% wool  
**BALL** 50g/83m (90yds)  
**NEEDLE** 6.5mm (UK 3, US 10½)  
**TENSION** 14 sts and 19 rows to 10cm or 4in square  
**RRP** £3.07



We love a good thick and thin yarn and this one from Sirdar comes with an unusual but attractive silky finish. It's available as a collection of eight stunning smoky and ombré colour blends, from grey-green Woodsmoke to

purple-gray Balsam (above). Classified as a chunky yarn, Sirdar Sylvan is worked on 6.5mm needles and, as it's machine washable, it's fab for your favourite projects.  
**sirdar.co.uk**  
**01924 371 501**

## RICO ESSENTIALS MOHAIR

**CONTENT** 73% mohair, 22% wool, 5% polyamide  
**BALL** 50g/90m (98yds)  
**NEEDLE** 7mm (UK 2, US 10½-11)  
**TENSION** 11 sts and 13 rows to 10cm or 4in square  
**RRP** £5.99



One of our fluffiest yarn review picks this month, Rico Essentials Mohair creates a soft but dense fabric that comes with a lovely, delicate drape. Worked on 7mm needles, this yarn knits up at an encouraging pace and

would look great for making both warming winter garments and playful accessories. It comes in an eye-pleasing seven colours, all chosen to blend beautifully with the others in the range.  
**rico-design.de**

## PATONS FASHION SOFT MIX

**CONTENT** 45% polyamide, 30% baby alpaca, 25% merino wool. **RRP** £3.95  
**BALL** 25g/113m (123yds)  
**NEEDLE** 4mm (UK 8, US 6)  
**TENSION** 22 sts and 35 rows to 10cm or 4in square



Light as the breeze, fluffy and economical, you'll find it hard to resist this little ball of super-softness. With a healthy yardage, just two balls will make you a neat winter hat. A few more and you'll be able to create delightfully

lightweight garments that look and feel luxurious and comfortable. Fashion Soft Mix comes in an appealing range of shades, but our favourite is this blush of soft peach.  
**makeitcoats.com**  
**01484 681881**

## DROPS AIR

**CONTENT** 70% alpaca, 23% polyamide, 7% wool  
**BALL** 50g/130m (142yds)  
**NEEDLE** 5mm (UK 6, US 8)  
**TENSION** 17 sts and 22 rows to 10cm or 4in square  
**RRP** £4.20



One of the latest additions to the popular Drops range, Drops Air is a covetable, luxury 'blown yarn'. Made up of alpaca and merino wool, with a pinch of polyamide. Created with a hollow 'blown' centre, this yarn is super-soft

and wonderfully light to wear. Once knitted up you'll find garments and accessories sit against the skin without any irritation making them suitable for all the family! Discover the wonderfully muted colour range at **garnstudio.com**.

## CONWAY & BLISS ELEKTRA

**CONTENT** 44% wool, 44% acrylic, 12% polyamide  
**BALL** 50g/130m (142yds)  
**NEEDLE** 8mm (UK 0, US 11)  
**TENSION** 12 sts and 18 rows to 10cm or 4in square  
**RRP** £4.95



When 'knitting up fast' is your preferred state of play, this yarn is definitely on your team! Conway & Bliss Elektra is a chunky yarn with colour combinations that have been named after musical genres – from Hip Hop to Grunge and

Disco (above). Most of the yarns blend from two strong statement colours, like bright green to purple, with all the lovely shade mixes in between. It's ideal for trendsetters!  
**designeryarns.uk.com**  
**01535 664222**



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## OMBRE CUSHION



LEARN A  
NEW STITCH

# SWEET SUNSET

**Stylecraft**'s gorgeous cushion is created using a fun-to-knit bobble stitch



# OMBRÉ CUSHION



## MATERIALS

- Yarn  
4 x 100g balls of Stylecraft Ombre in Sunset (shade 2444)
- Needles  
5mm (UK 6, US 8) knitting needles
- Needles  
46cm (18in) cushion pad

## YARN DETAIL

- Stylecraft Ombre  
stylecraft-yarns.co.uk  
01535 669952
- Aran weight
- 78% acrylic, 22% wool
- 100g/190m (207yds)
- Machine wash at 30°C
- £5.49

## TENSION

16 sts and 24 rows over pattern using 5mm needles to make a 10cm or 4in square

## FINISHED SIZE

46cm x 46cm, (18in x 18in)

## SPECIAL ABBREVIATION

**WB1** wrap bobble by inserting needle into next stitch as though to knit then wrapping the yarn around BOTH needles clockwise 10 times. Wrap yarn around single needle as normal and knit the stitch, pulling through the wraps. Pull the wraps up the yarn and pull the yarn to bunch up the wraps.

- Turn to page 96 for a full list of abbreviations

**W**hen it comes to creating heart warming homewares there's nothing like a bold splash of colour to make your living space sing! This gorgeous large cushion from the designers at Stylecraft is full of knitting fun. Not only is it designed in the zingiest of shade combos – Stylecraft's Ombre in Sunset – but the pattern is packed with a rewarding bobble stitch making this seemingly super-easy knit a little more interesting. So, if you're looking to learn a new stitch, but work a simple square, this is the pattern to try! Stylecraft Ombre comes in five delicious shades, from Tribal and Ethnic to Apache and Canyon – we're sure you'll find a shade to suit your decor.

## FRONT

Using 5mm needles cast on 73 sts and work in patt as follows.

Knit 12 rows.

**Row 13 (RS):** K1, \*WB1, k1; rep from \* to end.

**Row 14 (WS):** Purl.

Rep last 2 rows 4 more times.

These 22 rows form the pattern.

Cont in patt as set until work measures approx 46cm (18in), ending with a block of garter stitch or a block of bobbles, ending RS facing for next row.

Cast off.

## BACK (MAKE 2)

Using 5mm needles cast on 73 sts and work in garter st for 33cm (13in).

Cast off.



Learn how to knit fabulous bobble stitch with this gorgeous cushion from Stylecraft

## MAKING UP

Sew a front piece to a back piece leaving one edge open. Lay the second back piece over the first back piece and sew around three sides, making sure the original top section remains open underneath and leaving the opposite end on the new section open for fitting the cushion pad.

## SIMPLE STEPS PURL STITCH



**1** Holding working yarn in your right-hand at front of work as you look at it, insert right-hand needle diagonally into first stitch on left-hand needle, from back to front.



**2** Wrap working yarn around front of right-hand needle anti-clockwise and push this new loop to back of stitch, taking right-hand needle tip through the old stitch.



**3** Let the old stitch fall off the left-hand needle, keeping the new stitch on the right-hand needle. You've purled one stitch. So do some more!



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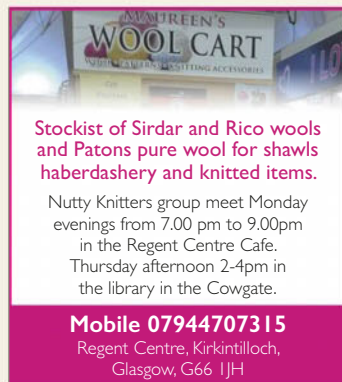
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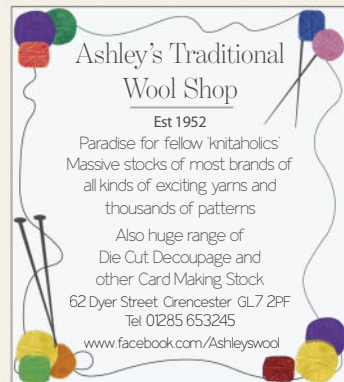


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# KNITTING KNOW-HOW

These step-by-steps, from casting on to casting off, will help you feel confident when you pick up your needles

## BACKWARD LOOP CAST ON

The simplest of all cast ons, use this to cast on mid row, or if you need a very loose starting edge.



**1** To work backward loop cast on you need to start off with a slip knot with a long tail. To do this you need to pull out about 12cm of yarn from your yarn ball. Make a loop in the yarn. Place the loop on top of the

yarn to the side of the loop. Pick up the yarn from inside the loop and pull it through. Pull the knot tight, keeping the loop at the top open. Slip the knot onto a knitting needle, and pull it nice and snug.



**2** Holding the working yarn taut, scoop your thumb underneath it.



**3** Catch the loop with the tip of the needle and pull tight. Repeat from step 2 until you have enough stitches.

## THUMB OR LONG TAIL CAST ON

The cast on your mum knows! This creates a nice stretchy edge and should be your first cast on choice.



**1** Make a slip knot leaving a long tail and place it on your needle. The tail should be at roughly three times the finished width of stitches.



**2** Hold the working yarn in your left hand and the tail in your right. Scoop your left thumb under the yarn and pull up to create a loop.



**3** Catch the loop with the tip of the needle, wrap the tail yarn around the needle, while still holding the loop taut with your thumb.

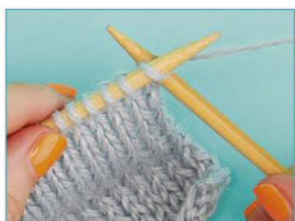


**4** Slip the loop off your thumb and off the needle. Repeat from step 2 until you have cast on your desired number of stitches.

## KNIT STITCH

The stitch you learn first. Knit stitch is what you knit on the 'right side' when making stocking stitch.

Knit stitch is where most knitters start. It's easy to learn, and garter stitch fabric (which is knitted every row) is lovely and squishy, although it is naturally shorter than stocking stitch (knit one row, purl one row and repeat). Start here, but make sure you give purl stitch a go soon. It's just over the page...



**1** Insert your right needle diagonally, front to back into the first stitch on your left needle. Your needles should be roughly at right angles.



**2** Wrap the working yarn around the right needle clockwise and pull this yarn through to the front of the stitch with your right needle.



**3** Let the old stitch fall off the left hand needle, keeping the new stitch on the right hand needle. That's your first stitch done!



## PURL STITCH

Essentially the same as knit stitch, but worked from the other side of your fabric.

Lots of new knitters stick with knit stitch for a really long time before tackling purl stitch. We think it's worth trying to learn them both at the same time, as it means that you will be able to work stocking stitch fabric straight away. Stocking stitch fabric grows more quickly than garter stitch (knit every row) so you'll feel like you're making faster progress on your project, and that's got to be good, right?



**1** Holding the working yarn in your right hand at the front of the work as you look at it, insert your right hand needle diagonally into the first stitch on your left hand needle, from back to front.



**2** Wrap the working yarn around the front of your right hand needle anti-clockwise and push this new loop to the back of the stitch, taking your right hand needle tip through the old stitch.



**3** Let the old stitch fall off the left hand needle, keeping the new stitch on the right hand needle. You've purlled one stitch. So do some more!

## SIMPLE CAST OFF

You've finished your first project, but now what? This cast off makes a nice firm edge and is easy to learn.

The simple cast off creates a firm, hard-wearing edge to your fabric. It can end up being quite tight and pull in the edges of your work, so if you find this happening make sure you aren't tightening your yarn after dropping off your stitch (step 2). If you are still finding it's too tight, try going up a needle size or two, by using a larger needle in your right hand to create bigger stitches to cast off with.



**1** Knit two sts. Now insert the tip of your left hand needle into the first stitch you knitted on your right hand needle, from left then right, as in the above picture.



**2** Continuing to use your left hand needle tip, lift the first stitch up and over the second stitch you knitted, and drop it off the right needle first and then off the left hand needle.



**3** Knit a stitch so that you have two stitches on your right needle and repeat the cast off as before until your last stitch. Break your yarn, thread it through the final stitch and pull taut.

## STRETCHY CAST OFF

This cast off is a little more work, but creates a lovely stretchy edge, so it's worth the extra effort!

This stretchy cast off is also known as the Russian cast off. In order to do it you need to know how to knit two stitches together, so see our handy tutorial for this at the top of the opposite page. When you get to the end of this cast off, and have just one stitch left, treat it as you would for the simple cast off – break your yarn, then thread it through the final stitch and pull taut.



**1** Knit two stitches onto your right hand needle, one at a time, and slip them back to your left hand needle without twisting them.



**2** Knit the first two stitches together on your left hand needle (see top of next page for help!). You will end up with a single stitch on your right hand needle.



**3** Knit another stitch and repeat steps 1 and 2 again until the final stitch. You should find that the edge is quite stretchy.



## K2TOG

This is the simplest way to decrease stitches and is also used on the stretchy cast off.

There are lots of ways to decrease stitches but the easiest one to learn is probably 'knit two together', commonly known as k2tog. This decrease results in a stitch that 'leans' right, so if a pattern asks for a 'right leaning decrease' this is the one you need to use. For the left leaning decreases (SSK and SSP) see our tutorials over the page.



**1** Insert your right hand needle into the next two stitches as if to knit them. Your needle should go into the second stitch on your left hand needle, before the first stitch (see above image).



**2** Wrap the working yarn around your right hand needle and pull the loop to the front.

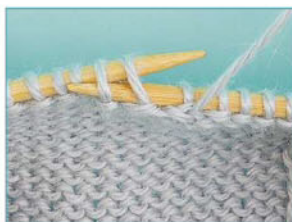


**3** Slip the two old stitches off the left hand needle. You should now have a single new stitch on your right hand needle to replace the two old stitches. You've now decreased one stitch.

## P2TOG

Your go-to decrease for purl rows, and when you need to decrease on the 'wrong' side in stocking stitch.

The purl two together stitch (p2tog) is used to combine two stitches on a purl row, decreasing one stitch each time you use it. From the purl side of the work it leans left, so when viewed from the right (knit) side in stocking stitch it will lean right, and look like you've made a k2tog stitch on the knit side of the work.



**1** With your yarn held at the front of the work, insert your right hand needle into the next two stitches purlwise, from right to left.



**2** Wrap the yarn around the front of both stitches anti-clockwise, and push the new loop to the back.



**3** Drop the two old stitches off the left hand needle and you will be left with a single stitch on your right hand needle. You've decreased one stitch.

## SLIPPING A STITCH PURLWISE AND KNIT WISE

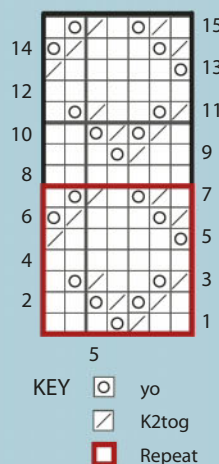
Two ways to move a stitch without working it.



**1** To slip a stitch knitwise, insert your right needle into it from front to back as if to knit it and let it fall off the left hand needle. This twists the stitch, and tightens it up.



**2** To slip a stitch purlwise, insert your right needle into it from back to front, as if to purl it, and let it fall off the left hand needle. This moves it to the right hand needle untwisted so it stays loose.



## HOW TO READ KNITTING CHARTS

Knitting charts follow the same rules unless the pattern states otherwise. Right side rows are usually odd numbers and are worked right to left. Wrong side rows are normally even numbers and are worked left to right. Pattern repeats will be contained in an area outlined in red and some charts will have further coloured outlines for different sizes. The key will give you each symbol and tell you what stitch it is.



## SSK

This left leaning decrease is easy to do, and the finished stitch is neater than some other options.

There are several common options for a left leaning decrease. Patterns may also tell you to knit two stitches together through their back loops (k2togtbl) or to slip one stitch, knit the next one, and then pass the slipped stitch over the knitted one and (skp). However, we think slip, slip knit (ssk) is the neatest and easiest way to do it, so unless the pattern says otherwise we use this one every time!



**1** Slip the next two stitches knitwise, one at a time, from the left hand needle to the right hand needle. This twists them to tighten them up.



**2** Insert your left hand needle through both front loops of the stitches you've just slipped, from back to front.



**3** Wrap the yarn around anti-clockwise and pull the loop to the front, and off the left needle. You've decreased one stitch.

## SSP

This purled decrease leans right, so if you make it on the wrong side, from the front it looks like an SSK.

Of all the decreases shown in this section slip, slip, purl (ssp) is probably the trickiest to master, as working purl stitches through their back loops can feel a bit fiddly until you get used to it. You'll need to insert the right hand needle from back to front and pull this needle to the front of the left one so that you can purl the two stitches together. Don't give up! It's not as hard as it looks.



**1** Slip the next two stitches knitwise, one at a time, from the left hand needle to the right hand needle, as you would if working ssk.



**2** Slip them back to the left hand needle by putting your left hand needle through the front of both of them from left to right and pull them off your right hand needle.



**3** With yarn held in front, put your right hand needle through the back loops of both two stitches from back to front, and purl them together. You've decreased one stitch.

## YARN OVER & YARN ROUND NEEDLE

These simple increases create a small hole in your work, so they're also used in lace stitch patterns.



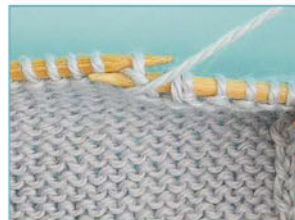
**1** Yarn overs are used to make increases on knit rows. To make a yarn over, get to the increase point in your row and then take your yarn through your needles to the front of your work.



**2** Now take the yarn over the top of your needle to the back of your work before knitting the next stitch as normal. You will now have one extra stitch on your right hand needle.



**3** Yarn round needle is used to make increases on purl rows: Get to the increase point, and wrap the yarn around the work, taking the yarn over the needle and then through your needles to the side facing you again.



**4** When you work your next stitch you'll find that you now have an extra stitch on your right hand needle. As with a yarn over, there will be a small hole underneath this stitch. This is correct so don't worry about it!



## CABLE LEFT/FRONT

Cables have great impact and are surprisingly easy. Here's how to do them over four stitches.

Cable stitches are known by two different sets of names, which can be pretty confusing! To make a left leaning cable, you hold half your stitches at the front of the work on a cable needle, so, for example, a four stitch cable like this may be called C4L or C4F. Usually half the stitches are cabled and half worked as normal. For odd cables (eg, C5L/F) the pattern should tell you what to do with the extra stitch.



**1** To make C4L/F slip two sts purlwise onto a cable needle and hold them at the front of your work. This can be a spare double pointed needle, or a special cable needle with a notch in it to stop the stitches sliding off.



**2** With the two stitches on the cable needle left 'in wait' for a moment, knit the following two stitches on your left hand needle.



**3** Now return to your stitches on the cable needle and knit them onto your right hand needle as well. You should now have two twisted stitches that lean left. The pattern will tell you when to work the next cabled row.

## CABLE RIGHT/BACK

Cables are often worked on a background on reverse stocking stitch to make them stand out.

To make a right leaning cable you hold the cable needle at the back of the work as you make the cable – that's why it's also known as the cable back stitch. You may find this stitch more straightforward to work than the cable left. When working a cable stitch be gentle as you hold the yarn, if you hold it too tightly you'll make a hole.



**1** Slip two stitches onto your cable needle as for C4L/F. You can hold the cable needle at the front to do this if it's easier, but remember to then move it to the back of your work.



**2** Knit the next two stitches on your left hand needle, leaving the stitches on your cable needle at the reverse of your work.



**3** Now insert your right hand needle into the first stitch on the cable needle, and knit it, and the following stitch off the cable needle. You should now have two twisted stitches that lean right.

## YARN WEIGHTS GUIDE

Yarn comes in different thicknesses, known as weights. Some yarns will include the yarn weight in the name (eg, Rowan Superwash Merino DK), but some weights have several different names!

If you want to swap the yarn suggested in a pattern for a different one, the best way to do this is to find a yarn of the same tension. It is important to remember that there may be more or less meterage in the yarn you are swapping.

So a pattern calling for 10 balls of double knit yarn at 100m per ball (1000m of yarn in total) will need 13 balls of a substituted double knit yarn which only has 80m per ball. If you only use 10 balls you'll be 200m short!

The finest yarn weights all use similar needle sizes, and for lacy patterns may be knitted on much larger needles too.



NAMES	Typical needle size	Typical tension to 10cm or 4in square
Lace	2.25mm to 3.25mm	34 sts and 42 rows
3ply	2.25mm to 3.25mm	32 sts and 40 rows
4ply/ fingering/sock	2.25mm to 3.25mm	28 sts and 36 rows
Baby/sport/ light DK	3.75mm	24 sts and 32 rows
DK (double knit)	4mm	22 sts and 30 rows
Worsted/ light aran	4.5mm	20 sts and 28 rows
Aran	4.5mm to 5mm	18 sts and 24 rows
Chunky	6mm to 8mm	14 sts and 19 rows
Super chunky	9mm upwards	10 sts and 12 rows



## PICKING UP STITCHES AND KNITTING

This is a great way to add an edging to a garment, and is often used for neckbands.

When picking up and knitting along a horizontal edge, pick up every stitch. For a vertical edge, pick up and knit a stitch two out of every three rows, or three out of every four rows. If you pick up every row on a vertical edge it will flare out and it won't look good. It is usual to go down a needle size when working an edging, again, to stop the edge flaring out.



**1** Insert your right hand needle into centre of the 'V' of your stitch and wrap the working yarn around your right hand needle.



**2** Pull the edging yarn through the middle of the picked up stitch. You have now got a single new stitch on your needle.



**3** Put your right hand needle back into the 'V' of the next stitch and repeat until you have picked up and knitted the required number of stitches for your edging.

## STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

alt	alternate	sl1	slip one stitch
beg	beginning	slm	slip marker from one needle to the other
C4L/F	cable 4 left/front		one by one, slip the next 2 sts kwise. Put the left needle through front loops of both slipped sts and k2togtbl
C4R/B	cable 4 right/back	ssk	
cm	centimetre(s)		
cont	continue(ing)		
dec	decrease(ing)		
dpn	double-pointed needles	ssp	one by one, slip the next 2 sts kwise and back to the left hand needle. Put the left needle through the stitches from back to front and purl them together
g st	garter stitch, knit every row		stitch(es)
foll	following		st st
inc	increase(ing)		tbl
in	inch(es)		
k	knit		W&T
kfb	knit into front and back of next stitch		
k2tog	knit two stitches together	st(s)	
k3tog	knit three stitches together	st st	
kwise	knitwise	tbl	
m	marker		
m1	make one stitch, by picking up the horizontal loop before next stitch and knitting into the back of it		
meas	measure(s)		
p	purl		
pm	place marker		
p2tog	purl two stitches together		
p3tog	purl three stitches together		
psso	pass slipped stitch over	WS	wrong side
rem	remaining	wyib	with yarn in back
rep	repeat(ing)	wyif	with yarn in front
rev st st	reverse stocking stitch	yb	yarn back
RS	right side	yf/yfwd	yarn forward
skp	slip 1 st, k1, pass slipped stitch over	yoh	yarn over hook
		yo	yarn over needle
		yn	yarn round the needle

## NEEDLE SIZE CONVERSION CHART

UK	METRIC	US
14	2mm	0
13	2.25mm	1
12	2.75mm	2
11	3mm	2/3
10	3.25mm	3
10/9	3.5mm	4
9	3.75mm	5
8	4mm	6
7	4.5mm	7
6	5mm	8
5	5.5mm	9
4	6mm	10
3	6.5mm	10.5
2	7mm	10.5/11
1	7.5mm	10.5/11
0	8mm	11
00	9mm	13
000	10mm	15
–	12mm	17
–	16mm	19
–	19mm	35
–	25mm	50



## NEXT ISSUE

**Cosy hooded cardigan**

**Stylish striped pouffe**

**Roll-neck poncho**

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# THE GRETA CARDIGAN

*Knit designer Sarah Hatton* talks about Greta, her textured yoke cardigan for all seasons!

**M**y knitting wishlist is ridiculously, almost impossibly, long. It's not just that there's aren't enough knitting hours in the day (I think all knitters will agree with this), but my plight isn't helped by seeing previews of lovely, must-have Rowan designs.

It isn't very often I knit one of my own designs, but Greta from the Rowan Finest collection was something I wanted to make for myself as soon as I sampled it. For the past few seasons it's sweaters that have dominated the fashion trends, and while I often think of knitting one, I always end up making cardigans as they suit me more. It's become

a running joke in the Rowan office I love neat-shaped cardigans with three-quarter sleeves, so much so I manage to fit one into nearly every collection!

I also normally end up knitting in grey, so the blue shade of this cardigan is a slight departure for me. The shade is called Haven and I love its richness, which reminds me of Devon blueware pottery, and works in all seasons. I'm a big fan of colourwork yoke cardigans, but my real passion as a knitter is texture, so I really enjoyed working the slip stitch pattern. I wear my Greta whatever the weather and know I will do for years to come!

[sarahhatton.com](http://sarahhatton.com)



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